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New Tajik Presidential Council Holds Session; Kurgan-Tyube Cease-Fire

A session of the Tajik presidential council—the first since Nabiyev's resignation from the presidency—was held in Dushanbe today, according to Russian TV. The attendees noted that the "critical" situation in the republic will become "even more acute if no action is taken."

Meanwhile, the latest reports on the situation in Kurgan-Tyube are contradictory: ITAR-TASS describes the situation as having returned to "normal" as well as having "worsened considerably." The chairman of the regional national security committee, Colonel Yerov, told INTERFAX that various groups in the area are observing the cease-fire, although "it is early yet to talk about any normalization of the situation."

CIS Parliamentarians Gather in Bishkek

Parliamentary speakers from Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan and the deputy chairmen of the Supreme Soviets of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Armenia gathered today in Bishkek for the opening session of the CIS interparliamentary assembly. Representatives of Azerbaijan are attending as observers. There is no Ukrainian representative. Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov has commented that Ukraine's absence "in no way affects the work" of the assembly, "since Ukraine plans to participate in the assembly in the future," according to an INTERFAX report. Khasbulatov also stated that "the establishment of an interparliamentary assembly of CIS nations is the beginning of the creation of a new confederation."

On today's agenda are a discussion of the role of parliaments "in expanding relations between community countries" and an examination of the assembly's draft regulations. A draft resolution on cooperation between parliaments on economic legislation has been circulated among the participants. It is intended "to create favorable legal conditions for entrepreneurship and free trade throughout the CIS." The draft states that "economic laws, including laws on enterprise, finance, banking, prices and taxes, should be based on common concepts and their adoption should be coordinated."

Leaders Arrive for Bishkek Parliament Meeting

Khasbulatov on New Confederation

OW1409164992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1557 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov believes the establishment of an interparliamentary assembly of CIS nations is "the beginning of the creation of a new confederation." He announced this Monday [14 September] in Bishkek, where he arrived to participate in the assembly, which starts September 15.

According to Khasbulatov, Ukraine's absence in no way effects the work of the interparliamentary assembly, since Ukraine plans to participate in the assembly in the future.

Chairman of Kyrgyzstan's parliament Medetkan Sherimkulov pointed out that he views the interparliamentary assembly as similar to the European Parliament and doesn't believe it is a repetition of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He said the assembly will become an independently operating organ which will have the right to protest decisions made by heads of Commonwealth states.

Khasbulatov on Ending Chechen Leader's Rule

OW1409181892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1805 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian Supreme Council Ruslan Khasbulatov said that he is prepared "to make a special statement on Chechniya, the regime in Groznyy and Dudayev's rule. That it should be ended". (Dzhokhar Dudayev is President of the Chechen Republic which declared its independence and secession from the Russian Federation—IF [INTERFAX]). Khasbulatov (a Chechen by nationality) expressed his attitude to the policy pursued by Dudayev at Bishkek airport (Kyrgyzstan) where he arrived to take part in the CIS interparliamentary assembly.

Chairman of the Tajik Supreme Council Akbarsho Iskandarov who also arrived in Bishkek told journalists that Tajikistan "will pursue the policy stated in the Declaration on Independence, strengthening relations with all CIS countries, including Russia". He also noted that the President Rakhman Nabiyev's resignation "had played a positive role, and the situation in parliament will be changing". Iskandarov pointed out that he "had no intention of running for the presidential post".

Interparliamentary Meeting Opens

LD1509084192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] The CIS interparliamentary assembly opened today in the capital of Kyrgyzstan. Taking part are the parliamentary speakers of Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan. Also there are the deputy chairmen of the Supreme Soviets of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Armenia. Representatives of Azerbaijan are present at the assembly with observer status.

After the break, President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan is expected to address the assembly and set out his position in the run-up to the Commonwealth heads of state summit. He is expected to speak on the five principles for unity among states recently advanced by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan.

Agenda Described

OW1509105392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1011 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A parliamentary assembly of CIS countries is opening in Bishkek today. In the morning the council of the assembly consisting of the speakers of parliaments held a session.

On the first day the role of parliaments in expanding relations between community countries is to be discussed, as well as the draft regulations of the assembly. The working bodies are also expected to be elected.

There will be a debate on the efforts of parliaments to guarantee social security, the coordination of legislations in the economy, the foundation of a joint weekly publication, the formation of a parliamentary club of political movements and parties.

According to the press service of the assembly, the Kazakh delegation does not think it useful to form a club because the assembly does not have the purpose of coordinating the actions of political movements and parties.

A draft resolution on cooperation between parliaments in economic legislation has been circulated. The aim is to create favorable legal conditions for entrepreneurship and free trade throughout the CIS.

The draft resolution says that economic laws, including laws on enterprise, finance, banking, prices and taxes, should be based on common concepts and their adoption should be coordinated. It is necessary to exchange information about legislation that has been passed or is in the makings and it is desirable to remove contradictions between the laws of different member-countries.

Ukraine Said Persecuting Black Sea Personnel

LD1209210292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 12 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] RIA reports that, in the Black Sea Fleet, there is increasing persecution of sailors and officers who refuse to swear allegiance to the Ukraine. There have also been instances of Ukrainian generals exerting direct pressure on new graduates from the Sevastopol naval academy.

In an interview with RIA, the Black Sea Fleet commander, Admiral Kasatonov, said that further unlawful acts by the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense will lead to the most unpredictable of consequences.

Progress Reported in Ukraine-Russia Naval Talks

LD1309181192 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] In accordance with mutual agreement, another meeting between the leaders and the experts of the state delegations of Ukraine and the Russian Federation at the negotiations concerning the issues of the Black Sea Fleet, headed by Durdynets, first deputy head of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, and Yarovoy, deputy head of the Supreme Soviet of Russia, was held in Moscow on 9 September. The main objective was continuation of the work started in Kiev on 30 August on the drafts of specific documents on implementation of the Yalta treaty on the principles of forming the Naval Forces of Ukraine and the Navy of the Russian Federation on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet. In particular, work continued on the draft of the treaty on structure and authorities of the joint command of the fleet in the transitional period.

It was announced at the meeting that the state delegation of Ukraine has done and will do everything possible in order to create a timely, complete, and reliable legal basis for unconditional implementation of the Yalta treaty, taking the interests of Ukraine into consideration. Drafts have already been prepared of the documents on the principles and the mechanism of division of the Black Sea Fleet between Ukraine and the Russian Federation; on the status, objectives, and tasks in the transitional period; on manning the Black Sea Fleet with citizens of Ukraine and the Russian Federation in the transitional period; on the procedure for bringing servicemen—citizens of Ukraine and Russia who have been drafted to serve in the Black Sea Fleet—to swear allegiance; on joint use of the current system of bases and the technical support of the Black Sea Fleet in the transitional period; and on securing civil, political, economic, and social rights of the servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet and persons dismissed from the military service and members of their families. It has been proposed that consideration of these problems be speeded up and that joint documents be worked out in a practical way at the next working meetings of the delegations.

It has been stressed that the delegation of Ukraine, proceeding from the Dagomys and Yalta treaties, wants to come to an agreement as quickly as possible and sign the whole complex of documents, which give concrete expression to the clauses of the Yalta treaty and will assist its effective implementation and the stabilization of the situation in the Black Sea fleet. These documents will create on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet, the Naval Forces of Ukraine and the Navy of the Russian Federation and will give a clear definition of the agreement about the time table.

The sides informed each other that the treaty between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on the naval insignia of the Black Sea Fleet in the transitional period, the draft of which was considered on 30 August in Kiev at the previous meeting of the leaders and experts of the delegations and signed by the presidents of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. In that connection they discussed the issue of informing third countries about the insignia of the Black Sea Fleet in the transitional period.

The leaders of the state delegations agreed that the next working meeting will take place in Kiev on 21 September.

Armenia, Azerbaijan Presidents on Joining CIS

PM1409093192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Lugovskaya: "Armenian President Introduces Clarity"]

[Text] There was a report in the mass media recently that if Azerbaijan joins the CIS Armenia will examine the question of withdrawing from the CIS.

In this connection I asked the heads of the two states to explain their positions on this question.

In a brief telephone conversation Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said: "There was no protest from Armenia over Azerbaijan joining the CIS."

Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey explained that the question of joining the CIS is the business of the republic's parliament, which intends to discuss the agreement's ratification in September. But Armenia's opinion, the president stressed, will not serve as grounds for the parliament's decision.

Abulfaz Elchibey also said that he himself is in favor of bilateral treaties and as examples of their effectiveness he cited the treaties between Russia and the states that are not CIS members. And as for the CIS, in the absence of a mechanism for implementing the accords that have been reached, the accords themselves have so far failed to produce anything in either the political or the economic sphere.

Having learned the Armenian president's viewpoint, Abulfaz Elchibey said: "He is a politician and a thinking man and that means he will not utter a word to harm the cause. I think someone wants disputes between us."

To the question, was it not time for the two presidents to meet, President Elchibey replied thus:

"Yes, we should have a personal meeting, but to prevent our meetings from being no more than a general conversation they should be preceded by talks at the level of foreign ministers, defense ministers, and so forth."

Baltic Prime Ministers Meet on Economic Issues

LD1209161992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0700 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Today, the prime ministers of the three Baltic states are holding a meeting in Tallinn.

The Lithuanian delegation is headed by Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala. The composition of the delegation is as follows: Minister of Finance Audrius Misevicius, Deputy Foreign Minister Valdemaras Katkus, Deputy Economic Minister Vytas Navickas, and Kazys Ratkevicius, deputy chairman of the Bank of Lithuania.

Agreements on the account settlement in hard currency among the Baltic states and other documents will be signed at the meeting.

Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev Favors Ruble Zone

LD1209162992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1344 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Arkadiy Rotmistrovskiy for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata September 11 TASS—Kazakhstan is for mainaining the ruble zone, a unified economic, credit and monetary space, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said during a meeting with heads of a number of CIS countries' agrarian academies and other participants of a symposium on problems of the development of international scientific and economic relations in the system of agricultural industrial complex, now under way in Alma-Ata, the capital of the republic.

The prevailing situation in republics of the former Soviet Union, the continuing fall in production in each of them and the economic crisis increasingly convince us about the necessity of restoring disrupted national economic ties, the president said.

Nursultan Nazarbayev supported the idea of the formation of a Council of Presidents of the Commonwealth's Academies of Agrarian Sciences. The president is of the view that the integration of scientific search will enable government bodies to find more rational forms and methods for a transition towards market relations, especially in such important spheres of reformation as decentralization of property, improvement in investment policy and establishment of effective contacts with entrepreneurs of other countries.

Agricultural Developments for 6-12 Sep

LD1309022192

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments monitored from CIS and Baltic sources from 6-12 September.

KAZAKHSTAN

In the North Kazakhstan oblast approximately 500,000 tonnes of grain—nearly all of it in excellent condition—have been delivered to elevators. Over 60 percent of all grain crops have been cut, while more than 20 percent has been threshed in the oblast. [Text—Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1102 GMT 11 Sep 92]

RUSSIA

Continuous rains in Altay kray have left grain growers there in a critical situation. Wheat, barley, and oats are lying in windrows—having been cut from more than 2 million hectares—with little chance for gathering and threshing them. Grain shipments to the state have nearly come to a standstill. Elevators in the kray have received only 250,000 tonnes of grain to date—considerably less than the total received by this date last year. [Text—Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Sep 92]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 12 Sep

LD1209053692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0517 GMT 12 Sep 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 12 (ITAR-TASS)—The all-Russian Conference of Heads of Legislative Authorities of Republics integrated in the Russian Federation, territories, regions and autonomous districts, as well as heads of local administrations, is in the focus of attention of the press today.

Newspapers carry reports from Cheboksary under the following titles: "Boris Yeltsin: it is high time to stop political games. Let us start working together" (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA), "Boris Yeltsin: the maintenance of social stability is the key to success of the reform" (TRUD), "Yeltsin and Gaydar seek to take Central Bank away from parliament. Another round of the struggle of the two types of authorities in Cheboksary" (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA), "Boris Yeltsin: let us stop playing and get down to work" (PRAVDA), "authorities sharing views" (SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA) and "last warning to authorities."

"When asking questions of journalists at the Cheboksary airport, before the opening of the conference, Yeltsin explained why he cancelled his visit to Japan. He said Japan "was too categorical about the problem of the Kuril Islands. We cannot tackle it in this way. Russians cannot give the Kuril Islands just like that... It is unacceptable to go to Japan without anything special to suggest, to hide from pickets. Neither the president, nor Russia will agree to this humiliation," TRUD writes. Newspapers point out that Yeltsin in his report at the conference "strongly advocated the transfer of the emphasis in the implementation of the reform from the federal to the regional level."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries Vasili Golovnin's article entitled "mistrust in Russia growing. Japanese accuse it of brazen behaviour." The article gives comments on the postponement of the Russian president's visit, published by the Japanese press. "Commenting on the situation, all agreed at first that the Russian reformer president wanted to take some steps on the way of developing bilateral relations, but capitulated at the last moment under the pressure of the conservatives from among former members of the ruling elite and leaders of the military-industrial complex. On the basis of these assumptions all come to the conclusion that the positions of the present Russian administration are extremely weak, that a "tacit coup" is beginning, and those on whom Tokyo pinned much hope will soon be ousted. Specifically, Tokyo officials expect the early downfall of Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Kunadze, who, in their opinion, demanded a more radical solution to the problem of the south Kuril Islands.

The press continues to highlight the situation in the hotbeds of tension—Abkhazia, Tajikistan and Nagorno-Karabakh.

"I shall have to ask the president to authorise the use of tough measures. We shall have to set strict limits for the consumption of energy resources," Russian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. In his opinion, the USSR was a "superpower" because of its fuel and energy resources. Sixteen billion tonnes of hydrocarbon raw materials have been extracted since 1917. According to Chernomyrdin, now the stabilisation of the fuel and energy complex is the priority task, which will be fulfilled by enterprises of the military-industrial complex and major research institutions, using the whole of the country's scientific and technological potential.

TRUD carries an interview given by chairman of the Latvian Parliament Anatoliy Gorbunov to ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Kuchina and Yuriy Sizov. "We are no longer subordinated to Moscow, to that artificially created "centre." We are Russia's partners,+ the Latvian leader said.

Russia's tank stock consists of tanks of various generations, said Colonel General Aleksander Galkin, head of the main department in charge of the armoured troops at the Russian defence minister, in an article published by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. According to Galkin, really up-to-date tanks, T-72b and T-80, make up only 25 per cent of it. He believes, however, that the situation with tank building is far from hopeless, despite difficulties with mass production.

International sections of newspapers carry reports about the situation in Yugoslavia, Latin America, the Middle East, as well as economic reports.

Political Issues

Rutskoy—Cabinet Reshuffle Not Ruled Out

OW1509102692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1013 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy does not rule out the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle as a result of the parliamentary session opening on September 22. He told journalists that the atmosphere will be somewhat tougher because there are conflicting opinions about the current developments in the Russian economy. Still he hoped for a constructive solution.

On the postponement of President Yeltsin's visit to Japan he said that it was a grounded and correct decision in the present situation. The visit should be constructive and this requires a thorough study of the political situation as well as concerted action. As for the rumored resignation of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in this connection, the vice-president said, this is not going to happen.

Draft Government Bill Ready; Shumeyko Comments

OW1409173292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 14 Sep 92

[From "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A government expert group has prepared a bill on the Government of the Russian Federation [RF]. The bill is to be introduced jointly by the President and the parliament presidium at the fifth session of the Supreme Soviet which will open on September 22.

First Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko thinks the bill "takes into account the interests of the President, government, parliament, and Congress of People's Deputies". In his opinion a wise compromise has been found as regards the influence of the parliament and the President on the government. The document stipulates that members of government should get their appointment after their candidatures have been considered by relevant committees and commissions in the Supreme Soviet. Earlier the Supreme Soviet itself approved the appointment of every cabinet member. Shumeyko said that forming the structure of the government, including the number of ministries will be entirely the prerogative of the Council of Ministers proper.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The group of experts is lead by first Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko, of the government, and Chairman of the legislation committee Mikhail Matyukov, of the Russian Parliament.

"Presidential Bulletin" has the full text of the bill "On the Council of Ministers—the Government of the Russian Federation".

Under the bill the Cabinet is a body of executive government of the Russian Federation, accountable to the President of the Russian Federation. The President of the Russian Federation—head of executive government—guides the activity of the Council of Ministers and takes measures to let the government to execute its powers.

The Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation cooperates with political parties, public organizations and movements in drafting federal programs and important social and economic decisions. In turn, the Cabinet promotes the appropriate conditions for the operation of political parties, public organizations and movements and mass media.

The Russian Government consists of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, his deputies, ministers and chairmen of state committees as well as heads of government from republics of the Russian Federation.

At the request of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers the president of the Russian Federation may include in the government the leaders of other agencies of the Russian Federation.

The head of the Cabinet is appointed by the president of the Russian Federation with the consent of the Supreme Soviet and approved by the Congress of People's Deputies. The prime minister is dismissed with the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

If parliament rejects the candidate for the chairman of the Council of Ministers, presented by the president, the head of state may appoint an acting head of the Cabinet and present another candidate to the Supreme Soviet within three months.

Deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, ministers of the Russian Federation and chairmen of the State Committees of the Russian Federation are appointed or dismissed by the president of the Russian Federation at the request of the chairman of the RF Government after their candidatures have been discussed by the appropriate commissions of the chambers and committees of the Supreme Soviet.

The leaders of other agencies and organizations of the Russian Federation are appointed or dismissed from the Cabinet by the president at the request of the premier.

The RF Government operates within the presidential tenure of office and steps down when a new president is inaugurated, but continues to perform its duties until a new RF Government has been formed.

A decision on the resignation of the RF Council of Ministers is made by the RF Congress of People's Deputies by a majority of the total number of people's deputies, or by the RF Supreme Soviet by a majority of the total number of people's deputies in each house.

The president may dismiss the government with the consent of the RF Supreme Soviet.

The government or some of its members have the right to tender their resignation. The resignation is accepted or rejected by the president with the consent of the Supreme Soviet.

The resignation of the chairman of the Council of Ministers is followed by the resignation of the whole Cabinet.

When the Council of Ministers resigns, the RF president must form a new government or ask the previous Cabinet to perform its duties for a term of no more than three months since its resignation.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers, his deputies, ministers and chairmen of state committees can not be people's deputies of the Russian Federation. The members of the Cabinet cannot take administrative or salaried posts at government or commercial organizations or perform other paid jobs, except for teaching, scientific research or other creative activity.

The Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation is accountable to the Congress of People's Deputies and to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation within the limits set by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and this law.

Ministries and state committees of the Russian Federation are set up and disbanded by the President of the Russian Federation on proposals from the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation with consent from the RF Supreme Soviet.

The president has the right to be present at government sessions and chair them. The sessions of the Cabinet are also attended by the vice-president.

At the sessions of government decisions are made by a majority vote. The heads of the administrations of territories, regions, cities of republican subordination, autonomous regions and autonomous districts take part in considering issues with the right to deliberative vote.

The Presidium, including the chairman of the government, his deputies, and ministers of finance, foreign affairs, defence, security, economics, as well as the chairman of the state committee of the Russian Federation for the management of state property and the chiefs of the apparatus of the cabinet, acts as a permanent body of the Council of Ministers. At the request of the head of government the president may include other members of the Cabinet in the Presidium.

Muted Reaction to Yeltsin Remarks at Conference

LD1509100492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 92

[From the "Itogi" program]

[Excerpts] One important event in the political life of Russia this week was the all-Russian conference of the heads of the representative and executive bodies in Cheboksary. It was attended by the country's leading figures—Yeltsin, Khasbulatov, and Gaydar. Our special correspondent Aleksandr Gerasimov, who returned today from Cheboksary, analyses the results and course of the conference.

[Gerasimov] According to a good Soviet tradition, all principled and cardinal statements are usually made by the country's leaders in the provinces. This time, Boris Yeltsin went to the Chuvashian capital to establish a truce between the executive and legislative branches of power. In the presence of all Russian leaders, from the oblast to the republican level, President Yeltsin proposed that a moratorium be introduced on the elections of deputies of all levels for a period of two and one-half years. A sigh of relief and applause in the hall was the reaction of the important audience.

After numerous speeches on the need to disband the congress and about people's deputies being too conservative, and attempts to neutralize deputies, the statement on the impermissibility of harming the representative bodies had a very calming effect on the gathering. It looks like it could form the basis on which good-neighborly relations between the executive power and soviets could be built. The organizers of the conference are counting at least on this.

According to Yeltsin, the current tug-of-war is probably the main cause of the slowing down of reforms. Observers have noted that the main task of the Russian president's trip to Cheboksary was to attract to his side the middle echelons of power—those directly involved in the implementation of reforms. The first week of the fall-winter political season will show how well he managed to do this. The ranks of the irreconcilable opposition appeared to be unaffected.

[Begin Aman Tuleyev, chairman of the Kemerovo oblast soviet of people's deputies, recording] I have no faith in Boris Nikolayevich. You remember, when the congress was under way, he made some promises. A week later he said that it was necessary to disband the congress, and then he said that soviets must be disbanded. So many clever and sensible people left as a result of all this. And now he says yet again that soviets should be preserved, that they would work and so on. How can we be sure he will not say the opposite next week? [end recording]

[Gerasimov] According to observers attending the conference, no reconciliation in the highest echelons of power took place. If this task has ever existed at all. [passage omitted on Russian Justice Minister N. Fedorov's speech at the conference]

None of the participants described the conference as historic, neither prior to the conference, nor after it. At the same time the Russian president confirmed that the course toward further democratization of society remains unchanged.

Yeltsin's Links with Political Parties Eyed

PM1409134192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Sep 92 pp 1, 2

[Articel by Ravil Zaripov: "Old Love or Marriage of Convenience? Which Party Will the President Prefer?"]

[Text] The needle of the political barometer slowly crept toward storm clouds in September. The past summer has proved extremely productive for all kinds of political statements and forums of government opposition forces and was actually not a bad rehearsal prior to the fall "class battles."

"Working Russia" was first to come out of the woodwork (which is becoming customary), bedecking with red calico and familiar banners the central entrance to the park named for the proletarian writer. The Russian patriots threatening to seize "Ostankino" are not far behind.

The leaders of the All-Russian Labor Conference have declared that a one-day strike will be held in September. Although the official trade unions—the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR]—are not proceeding toward open confrontation with the government, as a rule they support all the working people's actions and strikes.

An industrialists' congress is also scheduled for September. The All-Russian Conference of Commodity Producers, which presented the government with a package of ultimatums in August, was a rehearsal. The absence of the thrice-invited Yegor Gaydar at the conference, the usually restrained Arkadiy Volskiy's harsh comments ("The government cabinet is a company with unlimited irresponsibility of the closed type") removed the last makeup and cleared away the unnecessary scenery in mutual relations between the directors' corps and the government. (Meanwhile the dialogue between entrepreneurs and the FITUR proved more successful and, importantly, fruitful. The "Renewal" union, led by Arkadiy Volskiy, and the FITUR founded the Assembly of Social Partnership). The directors' lobby, represented in parliament by the "Industrial Union" faction, is in turn supported by the collective farm lobby—the "Coordinating Council of Collective Actions by Working People in the Agro-Industrial Complex." The collective farm bosses formed an agrarian section at the same all-Russian conference. The merging of the directors' and chairmen's corps will effectively constitute a parallel government cabinet with real power in the state.

The power that rules in conditions of the population's universal impoverishment is in a position similar to that of a tightrope walker who is going to be pulled down at any moment to appease the crowd which is thirsting for this. It is possible to stay on the political tightrope either by balancing on the junction of opposite views and interests (which is extremely difficult) or by having available a powerful support in the form of a political party or movement that supports authority and is capable of really influencing the situation.

The president's latest statements, it would seem, confirm his preference for the first course. Meeting with representatives of the parliamentary "Reform" group, Yeltsin bluntly declared himself to be the entire nation's representative who does not wish to associate himself with any one political movement. Being the democratic forces' nominee, the president seems to have distanced himself from them, demonstrating a readiness for dialogue even with Communists. Yeltsin's August statement displays not only a political settlement of accounts but also his April experience—the failed attempt to form a "Civil Coalition of Reform Supporters" (for which read a government party).

The desire to be above the squabble is tempting, but hard to realize in crisis conditions. It means having the president's chair resting on shifting ground and presupposes repeated demonstrations of supreme piloting skills between Scylla and Charybdis. Furthermore, it is to some extent a continuation of the tactics of Gorbachev, who, back in the past, was repeatedly reproached for playing up to some people and then to others.

Yeltsin is seriously concerned by the lack of an organizationally firm social base capable of carrying out the president's policy and by the need for guarantees of prolonging his political future. I venture to suggest that, not being members of a party, the president and government are doomed to an alliance (even if covert, rather than overt) with a powerful political party or movement.

On whom can the president count? Historically, on the democratic parties, among which "Democratic Russia" stands out. (The social base of "Democratic Russia" spans a broad spectrum bound together by anticommunist slogans and radical principles for establishing a market economy). It played a leading role in undermining the communist regime, but... like the rest of the democratic bloc parties, it found itself pushed aside from the real levers of power.

Six months have passed, and the August euphoria has been replaced by empty shelves and strikes—one more severe than the other. The government has now become more obliging. The broad representation of executive power headed by Gaydar at the July forum of reform supporters is solid proof that the cabinet is counting on receiving powerful support from radical democrats. Although the speakers studiously avoided the word "superparty," it was evident that it was music to the ears of the ministers sitting in the hall and, when he spoke, G. Burbulis openly proposed that a powerful progovernment coalition be formed, "whose potential will be needed very soon."

The forum participants are proposing to found an "Association in Support of Democracy and Reforms" between September and the beginning of October. Whether it will be a prototype of the desired superparty is the question. The idea of forming such a party to oppose the CPSU

was previously put forward by Nikolay Travkin, but most "Democratic Russia" supporters shied away from it like the devil from incense. Views have now changed, but "Democratic Russia" is no longer the same. The departure of the "Travkinites," constitutional democrats, and Christian democrats from its ranks and the July split in "Democratic Russia", part of which switched to open opposition to the president and government—all this is evidence of the crisis gripping the organization. Of course, most of it supports Yeltsin unconditionally but, like a racehorse, wearing the blinkers of radicalism.

The Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms takes an indeterminate position in relation to the government. Distancing itself from the directors' lobby in the cabinet, the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms believes that "a section of the government headed by Gaydar needs the support of a strong coalition." A key point of difference with the executive power is the question of ownership, because the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms supports the policy of "people's" privatization and consistently demands the constitution's adoption at a Constituent Assembly. Meanwhile Gavriil Popov, the movement's chairman, has stated that he will wait to join the "association" being founded and will retain an observer's status. The crisis within the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms itself continues.

The parties belonging to the "New Russia" bloc are also the president's supporters. Support for the president is not unconditional here because, in the opinion of the bloc's members, the government and other state organs need a cadre "purge" of former party apparatchiks. These parties are less radical than "Democratic Russia," but are not as big.

It should be noted that, in parallel with the idea of forming a pro-government party, the cabinet attempted to form a "fifth column" inside parliament. Its life was brief and to some extent revealing. The formation of the "Coalition in Support of Reforms" was announced prior to the Sixth Congress of Russian Deputies. At the congress, 240 deputies joined the coalition. But, less than a week later, "Free Russia" withdrew from the new bloc. Subsequent assemblies of the newly formed coalition showed an unconcealed lack of interest among the deputies who had joined. It was mainly members of "Democratic Russia" and the "Radical Democrats" who got together, previously having also been good neighbors in the bloc of democratic factions.

The People's Patriotic Party stands by itself in the ranks of the president's allies. It is not as big as its founders would like it to be, and its actual formation was openly tailor-made and regarded by many observers as the government's attempt to jump onto the bandwagon of the national-patriotic forces' express. But the attempt was belated; the seats in the "train" were already taken by other people. The national-patriotic organizations skillfully exploited the lack of a sensible, farsighted government policy on this question.

Thus, it can be assumed that the president's stake on the clearly pronounced democratic parties and the attempts to create a pro-government party from them have little chance of success. The main reason lies not only in their estrangement but also in the fact that the democrats proved incapable of doing the spadework and creating organizational support for the reforms at the local level.

The conclusion of an alliance between the president and the bloc of left-centrist parties looks the most promising. They are far removed from soapbox passions and will not accept the radical democrats' slogan: reform at any price. Yeltsin might be interested in such an alliance because the new political force is the best structured in the organizational sense, big, and widely represented at the local level. Moreover, Yeltsin will receive considerable support in parliament, where these parties are represented by the "Free Russia," "Industrial Union," "New Generation," and "Workers Union" factions. For his part, the president will have to make a number of compromises. It is known that the left-centrists differ on a number of provisions of the current government's political course and on the plan for implementing reforms, they reject the dissolution of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies and are against convening a Constituent Assembly to adopt a new constitution.

It is relevant to recall that a Council for Constructive Forces was recently formed on the initiative of Arkadiy Volskiy and Konstantin Borovoy, which clearly aspires to the very same power that will "freeze" the situation and will be able to further guarantee Yeltsin a continuation of his political future. It is unlikely that the Council for Constitutional Forces will confine itself to the role of a roundtable (talk and disperse). One of the questions at the council's closed session was on collaboration with the president, on whom the Council for Constructive Forces intends "to exert influence," as, incidentally, it does on individual government members.

Correction to Yeltsin Addresses Regional Leaders

LD1109212792

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Yeltsin Addresses Leaders" published in the 11 September issue of the Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, beginning on page 16:

Page 17, column one, from first partial paragraph, last sentence make read: ...that, of course. [new paragraph]

Are the previous subsidies, as it were, in the former Soviet Union, to be replaced now by republics proceeding along such a path? Enterprises will be inefficient if the size of the subsidies is not limited and if producers of goods do not overcome the psychology of living at someone else's expense. [new paragraph]

Today, the problem... (rewording)

Same column, third paragraph, fourth sentence make read: ...first, to ensure that the sale of enterprises to

shareholders is effected in full and within an established timetable, in accordance both with the... (rewording)

Column two, fourth paragraph, fourth sentence make read: ...to be too tenacious in all sections... (rewording)

Page 18, column one, third paragraph, second sentence, make read: ...to review borders, and the substitution of local information channels for central ones contradict the... (rewording)

Same column, fifth paragraph, last sentence make read: ...extent, the law on kray and oblast soviets of people's deputies, and on kray and oblast administration is... (rewording)

Page 19, column, one, third paragraph, from second sentence make read: ..."yes," applause] [new paragraph]

Good, but I have seen one person who was waving his hand, I mean shaking his head, saying no; let him be elected. [new paragraph]

[Khasbulatov] We will... (rewording, providing indistinct words)

Same page, column two, second paragraph, last sentence should read: ...in starting conditions dictate to regions different models of... (rewording)

Same column, sixth paragraph, last sentence make read: ...of Russia will take into account in more detail... (rewording)

Page 20, column one, fourth paragraph, third sentence make read: ...important for the federal bodies of administration... (rewording)

Same column, fifth paragraph, first sentence make read: ...nature conservation measures, and the policy in the area of utilizing natural resources... (rewording)

Same column, last paragraph, second sentence make read: ...economy in the regions and in Russia... (rewording)

Same paragraph, last sentence make read: ...of the associations instead of looking after number one. [new paragraph]

I would like... (rewording)

Same page, column two, fourth paragraph, fourth sentence make read: ...urban areas into representative and executive bodies.... (rewording)

Same column, last paragraph, second sentence make read: ...are strengthened. This fundamental system must take root, and as deeply... (rewording)

Page 21, column two, second paragraph, seventh sentence make read: ...sabotage is being controlled from above. It is being controlled. The Volgograd region... (rewording)

Same paragraph, third sentence from end should read: ...delivered 38 percent of its target and... (rewording)

Same column, last paragraph, second sentence make read: ...Russia should overcome its growing pains as quickly as... (rewording)

Same paragraph, seventh sentence make read: ...and they are at times petty—and seek... (adding "at times").

Yeltsin Appoints Kobets Chief Military Inspector

OW1409182192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1806 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin has appointed General of the Army Konstantin Kobets, age 53, chief military inspector of the RF [Russian Federation] Armed Forces.

General Kobets is a graduate of the Kiev military academy of signal service. In 1978 he was graduated from the military academy of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces and sent to the Far East, where he was chief of the signal service and deputy chief of staff of the Far-Eastern military district. From 1987 to 1991 General Kobets was chief of the signal service of the USSR Armed Forces and deputy chief of the General Staff.

During the August coup of 1991 General Kobets was one of the organizers of defence around the Russian Government's residence in Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezynana St., where the Russian leaders together with Boris Yeltsin were at that time. In 1991-92 General Kobets was chief of the RSFSR State Committee for Defence and Security, Chairman of the RSFSR State Committee for Defence, and State Adviser of the RSFSR for Defence.

Serviceman's Trade Union Prosecutes Grachev

LD1009084492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] The servicemen's trade union has instituted civil proceedings against Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, the Mars agency reports. The essence of the conflict is the prosecution of high-ranking officials in the Ministry of Defense by the heads of the trade union. The agency notes that the prosecution started after an article appeared in the press about abuse among the Army brass, in particular among the troops stationed in Germany.

Economic & Agricultural Issues

Yeltsin Praises Chernomyrdin's Energy Program

PM1409153992 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Sep 92 p 1

["Own Information" report under the rubric "In the Government": "Fuel and Energy Complex: Prospects for Development"]

[Text] This time President Boris Yeltsin, who is usually restrained in his assessments of the role of members of his cabinet in elaborating state policy, overcame the "niggardliness barrier" and highly rated the concept for the management of the fuel and energy complex in the new economic conditions presented at a government session by Deputy Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin. B. Yeltsin described the 54-page work by scientists and specialists from academic and branch institutes as a "well-elaborated document."

Presenting the document, Viktor Chernomyrdin stated that the new energy policy is geared toward shaping and ensuring reasonable energy consumption levels by society and toward the rational use of natural resources. Although, in his words, Russia should have sufficient oil, gas, and coal for at least another 200 years. At the same time Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed that from the mid-eighties, there has been a marked downturn in sectors of the fuel and energy complex and the level of extraction of energy sources overall has decreased by one-third. Financial aid from the state has been reduced by roughly the same amount.

Any claims about the allegedly gratuitous squandering of Russia's natural resources do not hold water, Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed. This is the propagandist slogan of those who do not understand the essence of what is happening in the economy, he believes. In the vice premier's words, Russia is rich in oil deposits expected to yield 200 years' use. There are no other such reserves in the world. But the country has not concluded major oil deals in recent years—so that this fact, too, refutes the theory that Russia is being "sold off" to the West. If only oil exports can be held at this year's level, that is to say, 55 million tonnes, in 1993. "Only the recent hike in prices of energy sources and state credits have made it possible to avoid a wholesale slump," the vice premier said.

Viktor Chernomyrdin described the main principle in implementing the new policy in the fuel and energy complex as being the creation of a state-controlled energy market where conditions should be linked with world prices of energy sources. He considers, however, that gas prices should remain state-regulated, and prices of oil, petroleum products, and coal "should be released partially, rather than all at once, so that they can reach the level of world prices sometime in 1993."

The concept indicates the following among the main tasks of the new energy policy for the years immediately ahead: formulating society's reasonable energy consumption levels and boosting energy saving; supplying consumers with safe and reliable energy, giving priority to the needs of the population; and creating conditions for the comprehensive development of Russia's energy-deficient and energy-surplus regions, while making efficient use of energy resources.

Gaydar Remarks to Journalists on Fuel, Reform

MK1209100992 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 37, 13 Sep 92 (Signed to press 8 Sep 92) p 2

[Report by Olga Bychkova under the "Government" rubric: "Yegor Gaydar's Truth"]

[Text] "There are several subjects on which it is obviously pointless to question representatives of the organs of power,"—that was how acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, who had invited MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI and KOMSOMLSKAYA PRAVDA journalists to see him last Friday, started his explanations.

The explanations concerned the newspapers' mistrustful reaction to the acting prime minister's assurances that gasoline would not cost 37 rubles.

According to Gaydar, people usually ask questions on two subjects—fuel prices and monetary reform: "When I worked for the press I did not even fully realize what a difficult position these questions posed for any representative of power." Gaydar stated "completely frankly" that he always has two truthful answers: Gasoline prices will go up, and there will be no monetary reform. But he immediately admitted that if a monetary reform was being planned, and there were very specific plans for prices, he would have to lie "as he would find himself in a difficult and completely idiotic situation." "To be honest, I do not know how to get out of such a situation," Gaydar admitted candidly. He announced that fuel prices would rise, but smoothly—in order to approach world prices over a period of the next two to three years, "without any jumps."

Gaydar noted that his government is not at all as sly and devious as the newspapers usually write. It was doubtless with the same candor that he assured his former colleagues that he is certainly not preparing for future fights with the government in parliament. "We are working," the acting premier said firmly, and listed the normative acts and programs that will prevent industry from starting off next year like it did last year. Apart from the price regulation, according to Gaydar, the most important things today are orders for the military industry, the foreign economic regulation mechanism ("there will be no revolutions here"), the refugee problem, employment....

"Imagine, if we covered our heads in ashes and started saying: Oh no, there's going to be a congress, oh no, there's going to be an attack, oh no, what are we going to do?..." As he said this, the head of the cabinet very expressively feigned complete despair and submission to fate. Then, laughing and changing his expression, Gaydar stated with his previous directness and resoluteness: "We will tell the truth." About the fact that it is difficult but not disastrous, that serious positive changes have been made: Monthly rates of inflation have fallen significantly, industry has started adapting to the new realities in certain spheres, and it has proved possible to launch the privatization mechanism.

Leaving the acting premier's office, the journalists admitted to one another that this had been unprecedented in their professional practice. And they thought hard. Then they put forward two equally mistrustful versions. The first one made it look as though Gaydar is perceiving the beginning of the end for his reforms and is looking for outside support. The second one presented matters as though he was creating a radiant picture of an open and frank prime minster to annoy his political rivals. But maybe in actual fact it was all simpler than that.

Outline of Measures to Implement Reform Program

PM1109145592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 92 First Edition p 3

["Own Information" report under the rubric "Reform: Stage Two": "Program of Priorities"]

[Text] Following the appearance of the draft "Program To Deepen the Economic Reforms," certain people regarded it as too superficial. The plan of measures to implement the program, approved recently by Yegor Gaydar, is intended to give it real substance.

The plan, which goes through to the end of the year, envisages the creation of a legislative base which will provide the foundation for the further transformation of the Russian economy.

It is a pretty voluminous document, containing 152 points, most of which will ultimately find expression in specific laws, presidential decrees, government resolutions, and other normative acts. Its 19 sections cover practically all of the main provisions of the program, from liberalization of the economy and financial policy to reorganization of the foreign debt and relations with the former republics of the USSR. Not surprisingly, it is difficult to name a ministry or committee that has not been involved in this work to some extent or another—so multifaceted is it. For instance, the "Enterprise" section contains 10 points. It includes the elaboration of proposals to support private enterprise and create a fund to back enterprise; preparation of a draft decree of the president "On simplifying the procedure for the registration of corporate bodies and individuals involved in economic activity"; the elaboration of draft laws "On joint-stock companies and associations," "On ownership rights guarantees," "On noncommercial organizations"... Saying how necessary all these documents are today is like repeating the multiplication tables.

The plan highlights a group of priority areas: fuel and power, conversion, housing, communications, food. A separate state program will be prepared for each of them.

The program for deepening the economic reforms is to be discussed by the Russian parliament at its next session. But the government decided not to waste time twiddling its thumbs, waiting for this to happen, and started to act. The necessary adjustments can be made, if they are needed, cabinet members believe, as things progress.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays has been instructed to coordinate work on implementing the program.

Gaydar Opposes More Benefits for Outside Capital

OW0909200092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1804 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar believes it would be a big mistake to give foreign investors greater benefits than those contained in the law on foreign investment. The statement was made by First Deputy Minister of Russia's External Economic ties Sergey Glaziyev at a meeting of the parliamentary committee for international affairs and external economic ties, where amendments to the law on foreign investment were discussed.

The committee's experts suggested drafting a new law that would give Western capital far bigger benefits. They believe that similar laws in other CIS member-states are more attractive to foreign investors.

Glaziyev said that insurance against political risks was the chief yardstick for foreign businessmen to judge the feasibility of investment. He called for putting Western and domestic enterprises in the same conditions.

Glaziyev believes that for those foreign businessmen that have already started their business in Russia the granted benefits must be preserved.

Capital Outflow Reportedly Totals $2 Billion

OW0909114592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0952 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Since the beginning of the year the export of capital from Russia has amounted to 2 billion dollars, First Deputy-Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Glazyev told IF [INTERFAX]. According to this ministry, this sum includes controlled and uncontrolled exports of hard currency.

Glazyev believes that about 1 billion dollars belonging to Russian exporters are kept abroad quite legally and are used for purchasing equipment, raw materials and commodities. The rest of the capital has been exported illegally, but is used for the most part for buying foreign-made goods for Russia. Although Russia loses tax revenues this cannot be qualified as the drain of capital as such.

Glazyev refuted reports about a colossal outflow of hard currency from Russia. As a rule such information comes

from Western banks, he said, and allows them to fix higher interest rates for operations on the Russian market.

Analysis of Ruble Exchange Rate Against Dollar

PM1509100792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by economist Nikolay Gusev: "Ruble Is Strengthening Its Positions, but What Will Happen Tomorrow?"]

[Text] The results of the 10 September 1992 trading at the Moscow interbank currency exchange are very reassuring: As many experts predicted, the positions of the ruble have strengthened.

As a result, the price of the dollar on the exchange has been reduced by nearly five rubles [R], reaching R203 a dollar. For comparison, just two days before, on 8 September, the "fixing," that is the exchange rate for our currency established at the end of trading when a balance has been achieved between supply and demand, was R207.9 per dollar. The initial demand and supply at the 10 September trading were respectively $25.11 million and $35.27 million while the volume of exchange conversion declined to $25.46 million.

Analyzing the results of trading at the Moscow interbank currency exchange, it is possible to draw several conclusions. First of all the currency market has become more or less predictable. The stabilization of the ruble exchange rate and even a certain increase in the exchange rate was not only predicted by specialists keeping a close watch on the situation at the Moscow interbank currency exchange, but was first of all "precisely" picked up by the Moscow black market. Over the course of one week the rate for purchasing "greenbacks" fell from R230-240 to today's R200-210.

After a period of heavy demand for currency in late August, connected not only with the emission activity of the Central Bank of Russia but also with the approach of the "fateful" date of 1 September, when new import tariffs were to be introduced and the export of raw material placed under state control, a relative lull ensued at the Moscow interbank currency exchange.

Indeed, by 10 September the initial supply and demand had returned to their "usual" level of $25-35 million, which it is estimated corresponds approximately to the current volume of currency bought on the exchange to pay for current imports.

Purchasers of currency are obviously expecting a further reduction in the dollar exchange rate, which is borne out not only by the absolute reduction in the demand for currency funds, but also by the reduction in the elasticity indicator. In other words the increase in the ruble exchange rate during trading is not leading to an increase in purchasers' activeness.

The quite tough position adopted by the IMF, which defends a single exchange rate for the ruble, has most likely forced the Central Bank to renounce for the time being the introduction of a fixed rate and a change to the currency regulation system. A positive role may also possibly have been played by the commercial banks "playing" at raising the ruble exchange rate and calculating that after a certain stabilization in the rate they would manage, after buying "cheap" dollars, to sell them, for instance in late September, at a higher rate.

In the short term the ruble exchange rate will be stable and moreover it will most likely be strengthened, especially if there is a drastic increase in prices for energy carriers and agricultural commodities—enterprises and individuals will simply not have the money to buy currency.

But with the easing of the tough credit and monetary policy by the government and the Central Bank and the new preferential credits for the state sector, the solution of the problem of offsetting enterprises' interrepublican debts could lead in a while to a new "collapse" of our currency's exchange rate.

Data on Sale of State Loan Bonds

PM1009113992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 92 First Edition p 3

["Own Information" report: "Bonds Selling Well"]

[Text] In the first three weeks of August the total face value of the Republic State Loan Bonds 1991 acquired by corporate bodies in the Russian provinces was 129.7 million rubles [R]. The figure for Moscow and Moscow Oblast was R400.2 million, although this was for all of August. Until 10 September the current prices will be:

For the "April" group—offer 45.8 percent, bid 42.8 percent of par;

For the "October" group—50.2 and 47.2 percent respectively per R100,000.

Bank To Issue Short Term Promissory Notes

LD1209044192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0821 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—The Central Bank of Russia will issue three-month state promissory notes in an experiment announced on Friday [11 September] by the newspaper BIZNES I BANKY (Business and Banks).

According to the newspaper, the project "can be regarded as one of the first steps towards creating a normal securities market." It is envisaged that the initial market will be made up of a series of monthly auctions, at which promissory notes will be sold at market rate. The first bidders, expected to take part in these auctions on a permanent basis, will be determined by the bank itself.

The newspaper also said that the bank will issue 200 to 500 million roubles' worth of notes for the first auction scheduled for this autumn, and additionally two to three billion roubles' worth of promissory notes if the experiment proves successful.

Expert Warns of Impending Hyperinflation

LD1209172692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1735 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—Unless urgent measures are taken Russia would be hit by hyperinflation, a leading Russian economist warned on Friday [11 September].

Professor Yevgeniy Yasin, who heads a task force preparing a programme of deeper economic reforms, denied, however, that hyperinflation was already in full swing. "We do not agree with some economists that hyperinflation has already begun. Objective data do not confirm this, but hyperinflation is just around the corner," Yasin said.

Faulty forecasts about plants' behavior in new conditions piled on top of mistakes in credit and financial policies, he said, predicting that credit emission in September will be ten times the March figure.

Government debts in wages to workers have reduced from 220 billion roubles to six billion and debts between enterprises have fallen from three trillion roubles to one trillion 200 billion, he said.

The crisis of non-payments was prompted by many reasons, including glitches in the work of the banks. However, snowballing payments between plants can hurt further government efforts to rein in the country's finances.

Moscow Mayor Affirms Food Supply Under Control

LD1109164392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1523 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Sugak]

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—The food supply situation is under control in the Russian capital and there are no reasons for panic, sources at the Moscow mayor's office press center told ITAR-TASS.

This is a conclusion of today's meeting of the Moscow government's headquarters on city food supplies. In the opinion of Deputy Moscow Premier Boris Nikolskiy, attempts of some newspapers to "stir up the atmosphere with scandalous rumors" can, certainly, hamper the government's work, but cannot distort the actual state of things. Every Muscovite goes shopping himself and knows well about the situation with food supplies.

In the opinion of city authorities, trade orders for bread have increased over the past week, although the Muscovites' consumption remains on the same level. The matter is bread prices have doubled in the Moscow region.

The situation with meat, meat product and butter supplies is good. The city has stocks of these products and their supplies are being done from various regions under agreements.

The current shortage of vegetable oil was caused with poor relations between storages and shops. The latest city government's warning is expected to have a positive effect, moreover that the law enforcement bodies will help to implement it.

The situation with gasoline is no news. The daily consumption has reached a record figure of 6,500 tonnes (in contrast to the 5,000 last year) as mass media reported on the upcoming repairs of the oil plant.

The report lacked a commentary of specialists and heads of the oil and oil processing industry, who can assure all measures have been taken to fill in the gap. Neighbouring plants will take the supply on themselves.

Another difficulty is purchases of vegetables and fruit for winter. An agreement has been reached with banks on credits and dealers are now able to conclude delivery contracts in all regions of Russia and the former Soviet republics.

"In any case, this problem will be solved as well," Nikolskiy confirmed.

Harvest More Than Expected; Farmers To Protest

LD1409081192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] The Russian Agriculture Ministry has reported that 76 million tonnes of grain have been harvested in Russia. Experts believe the total harvest may reach 110 million tonnes which is more than expected. Farmers, however, are slow in selling the grain to the state. They believe the government purchasing prices are inadequate now that the agricultural machinery has become much more expensive and living standards lower. The Agricultural Union is to hold a day of farmers protest tomorrow. They are to picket Government House in Moscow and the building of regional administrations in their localities.

Scientific Issues

Program Reports on 'Secret Nuclear Town'

LD1009220392

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1922 GMT on 9 September, in its "Black Box" program, carries a 40-minute recorded feature called

"The Closed City [Peredacha Vtoraya]", second in its series "The Secret of Nuclear Weapons."

The program begins with an unidentified correspondent introducing clips from a film produced by Mikhail Romm, "Nine Days of One Year," about a nuclear physicist involved in secret work on a nuclear accelerator to achieve thermonuclear synthesis and who ended up in a clinic following repeated doses of radiation.

The fate of such scientists was only revealed in May 1992, when a television crew was permitted to go to a secret nuclear town in the Urals, which was long hidden, even from the CIA.

The crew was allotted nine days to make their film about the closed town. On day one, the TV crew flew to a town which is not designated on any Soviet map. Film of the town is accompanied by some rhetorical questions as to what the town is like and whether Russian nuclear physicists will start to go abroad.

In the hotel, the TV crew heard people speaking about a strange "green emission" into the atmosphere in one of the squares on the outskirts of the town. Their escort denied knowledge of any such emissions.

Academician Yevgeniy Nikolayevich Avrorin, head of the institute in the town, states that the town was set up to create an atomic bomb. A few details of Avrorin's career are given and how he came to work at the secret nuclear center on the shores of Lake Sinara, near Chelyabinsk and Sverdlovsk. The town was like a back-up center in case the major center, Arzamas-16, should need replacement.

Avrorin speaks about the restrictions imposed on the town's residents, such as the need for permission to invite people to the town, to go abroad, telephone calls being tapped, and mail being checked, which he explains as the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the leaking of state secrets. Nuclear missiles abroad are aimed at this town, and therefore its residents are live targets.

Chelyabinsk-70 or Snezhinsk are the names of the town. The configuration of a snowflake, the town's symbol, is reminiscent of an explosion in its outlines, the correspondent says. The film shows various residential districts of the town.

Avrorin says that people's moods have changed as they realized that they have been responsible for something detrimental to mankind, rather than something important and needed.

V.P. Laushkin, a senior research assistant and candidate of Technical Sciences, and V.M. Ivanov, a leading designer who composed the town's own anthem, are introduced to the TV crew.

Avrorin gives details of how people were selected for work in this town. There were even many non-party people.

Avrorin is interviewed by the TV crew in Moscow before going on a business trip to the United States. Avrorin says that he can now name his institute, address, and telephone number, although for many years he was bound by secrecy. He says that the type of secrecy varies in Russia and the United States. Avrorin's institute is called the All-Russia Scientific Research Institute of Technical Physics. The video features the meeting of scientists in America.

The institute is said to be responsible for the "green release," which the TV crew manages to film. Video shows a townscape with a misty green outline around the buildings and other objects.

On day two, the TV crew, who do not yet have full permission for their filming, are permitted to film the checkpoint at the entrance to the town, which is surrounded with barbed wire and a ploughed strip and guarded by soldiers with machine guns. Filming of soldiers was restricted, and then prohibited completely.

The unidentified correspondent says: "They took us to Lake (Sumgul). Here there was forbidden zone B, at the end of the 1940's. Our candidates and doctors of sciences, from among prisoners, of course, together with German scientists who had been taken prisoner, under the leadership of the convicted Academician Timofeyev-Resovskiy, carried out top-secret research on the effect of radiation on live organisms. After all, practically nothing was known of that secret phenomenon then. A dangerous background of radiation has persisted up until our day. One finds dirty spots of contamination in places on the soil." The video shows the lake.

In spite of the contamination, the Orlenok pioneer camp for the children from the town is located on the shores of the lake. A howitzer at the camp is shown, which was once at the epicenter of a nuclear explosion. Video shows the pioneer camp.

The town's main sociologist, V.N. Osipov, candidate of Economic Sciences, recounts that the town was created overnight in 1956 and speaks about the demographic situation in the town.

Kirill Ivanovich Shelkin was the first head of the institute, followed by (Sbabakin) in the 1960's and by Academician Avrorin in the 1980's. In the next five years, the original scientists, who are in their fifties and make up the town's main potential, will retire. Avrorin speaks about the very small influx of young specialists to the town, less than 3 percent of new staff are being taken on each year. But the young people in the closed town desire freedom.

A young unidentified man from the town shows the TV crew his cartoons, indicating how the people in the town are like prisoners, bound and gagged, and shows a cartoon of a multi-limbed man with "I will not forget the 1957 explosion" tattooed on his chest.

Academician Avrorin speaks about the danger of a brain drain, about the possibility that people will go and work in the West. In some branches of the Academy of Sciences, almost half of the staff are already working abroad, he says.

On day three of the TV crew's visit to the town, sirens sound while the crew is visiting the town, but people in the streets take no notice. The siren was evidently sounding from the secret production facility.

The "secret production facility" will be dealt with in the next "Black Box" program of Black Box, the correspondent announces. The date and time of the next segment are not announced.

Cosmos-2209 Satellite Lifts Off From Baykonur

LD1109140192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1339 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 11 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The latest artificial Earth satellite, "Cosmos-2209", was launched with the aid of a "Proton" carrier-rocket from the Baykonur cosmodrome on Thursday. The satellite is carrying scientific apparatus for research into space and the processes occurring in the Earth's atmosphere. The satellite has been placed in a near-stationary orbit. The apparatus aboard the satellite is working normally.

Supreme Soviet

Parliament To Reconsider Law on Defense

LD1409173392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—The law of the Russian Federation "on defence" will be reconsidered by the parliament by the today's decision of members of the Supreme Soviet committee on legislation after they analysed the Russian president's proposals. As it was reported, Boris Yeltsin put a veto upon this legal document and returned it to the parliament.

Deputies agreed with a number of proposals made by the head of the Russian state and intend to uphold them at the forthcoming parliamentary session when discussing the law "on defence" for the second time, Mikhail Mityukov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet committee, told ITAR-TASS.

"Specifically, we agreed with the president's proposal saying that the president himself should submit to the Supreme Soviet for approval the composition, structure and strength of the Russian Armed Forces, as well as determine the number of generals and admirals on the staff," Mityukov noted.

According to the chairman of the committee, also right is another Boris Yeltsin's proposal that only president is entitled to appoint defence minister and his deputy, chief of the general staff and commanders of all armed services of the armed forces independently, without approval by the Supreme Soviet. "The current Russian Constitution requires it," Mityukov said.

Plans Discussion of Bill on Government

LD1209171992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1551 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—A task force appointed by President Boris Yeltsin and Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov has completed work on a draft bill "On the Council of Ministers—the government of the Russian Federation".

"I think the draft will be discussed among the first at the forthcoming session of the Supreme Soviet," Mikhail Mityukov, chairman of the Parliament Legislative Committee, told reporters. Apparently, it will be submitted to the session jointly by the president and parliament.

Commenting on the draft, Mityukov said that "the draft law on the Council of Ministers is based on a postulate that the government is subordinated and responsible to the president."

However, in many aspects the government will be under the control of the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet.

"We took into account that the Council of Ministers shall be guaranteed from excessive control by the president, parliament and the Congress of People's Deputies and have specified autonomous rights," Mityukov said.

"To achieve this the bill includes a number of legal norms ensuring the government's independence as a supreme body of state management," he said.

First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko, who took part in a meeting of the task force, pointed out that "the main advantage of the bill is that it fully corresponds with our views about the government we now need".

Under the draft the chairman of the Council of Ministers will be appointed by the president with consent by the Supreme Soviet and will be endorsed by the Congress of People's Deputies.

If the parliament does not give consent to the president's candidate the president can appoint an acting chairman of the government and within three months nominate a new candidate.

Committee Views IZVESTIYA Registration

OW1409110492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1017 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ministry for Press and Information has a statement of the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet signed by Ruslan Khasbulatov on registration of the newspaper "IZVESTIYA of the Russian people's deputies", the Russian Vice Premier Mikhail Poltoranin reported on Monday [14 September] at the session of the parliamentary committee on mass media. The term for considering this document is due to expire on September 17, he said.

The deputies-members of the committee declared that the session of the presidium did not consider such issues and made a conclusion that the statement on registration had been presented only on behalf of Ruslan Khasbulatov. They addressed the minister to halt considering the issue on registration of the newspaper.

To this effect in his conversation with journalists Mikhail Poltoranin declared that the certificate on registration will not be given to the declarant until the Supreme Soviet considers this issue.

Recommends Removing Issue From Agenda

OW1409135392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1222 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliamentary committee on mass media recommended the presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet to take off from the agenda of its session the issue on the publishing house "IZVESTYA", a conclusion prepared by members of the committee on Monday [14 September] cites. The deputies believe that the presidium of the Supreme Soviet exceeds its powers considering this issue on control (usage, employment) of federal property.

The draft resolution of the presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet "Issue on publishing house "IZVESTIYA" of the people's deputies of the Russian Federation" was proposed to be considered at a closed session of the presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet on September 7. But the majority of the presidium's members did not support this document.

The committee on mass media believes "that it is politically and practically inexpedient for the Russian Supreme Soviet to be a manager of concrete state property replacing bodies specially formed for these purposes".

Khasbulatov Resignation Not in National Interest

MK1109113192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Alekseyev under the "Opposition" rubric: "Khasbulatov Resignation Not in 'Russia's Interests' Right Now. Parliamentary Opposition Not Touching Speaker Yet"]

[Text] Rumors that the Russian parliamentary opposition is ready to support the demand of the "Reforms Coalition" for the resignation of Supreme Soviet Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov have proved somewhat exaggerated. Coordinator of the "Russian Unity" bloc Sergey Baburin stated yesterday at a news conference held at the parliamentary center that the opposition, just like "Reform," voices dissatisfaction with the latest ordinances from Khasbulatov, deeming them to be unconstitutional acts. Sergey Baburin believes that they "must be brought into line with the Constitution, even if Ruslan Imranovich does not want this."

Judging by everything, the current "interests of Russia" do not demand the speaker's resignation but, on the contrary, contraindicate this course of action. Fifteen members of the Russian parliament—Sergey Baburin among them—issued a statement the other day in which they "condemned the persecution campaign against the Supreme Soviet chairman" and evaluated "Reform's" actions as "irresponsible actions which may entail dangerous consequences for society." Thus, the head of parliament's violation of the Constitution has been acknowledged by the opposition at the present moment to be less dangerous for "the interests of Russia" than the resignation of such a necessary ally.

Filatov Examines Parliament Factions, Problems

MK1009154092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Supreme Soviet First Deputy Chairman Sergey Filatov by Vera Kuznetsova; place, date not given; under the "Position" rubric: "'What Does It Mean To Defend Russians? Introducing Troops and Starting a War?' There Is a 'Democratic Russia' Representative in the Russian Federation Parliamentary Leadership—He Is Sergey Filatov, First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] [Kuznetsova] Sergey Aleksandrovich, factions in parliament today are divided up not only according to political interests but according to national interests, too. How can you define the spectrum of these groups?

[Filatov] I am more inclined to think that on the whole our factions are politically oriented. There is no strong nationalist group in parliament. It may be that such feelings are manifested when a discussion on the draft of the new Constitution is in progress. Because the debate on the place of a national-territorial formation in our state is very painful for many deputies from these regions. I see the quickest solution to this problem in the proportionate division of power and property. Only you have to recognize that this problem exists for krays and oblasts, too. There are republics that want to be equal to Russia. Such a position generates tensions because the krays and oblasts do not want to be thwarted. The situation is further intensified when nationalist movements within the republic enter the fray.

[Kuznetsova] But it could be that it is beneficial for many groups inside parliament to seize upon nationalist tendencies, to get mixed up in conflicts, to force Russia

and its leadership to conduct a heavy-handed national policy both within and without. And particularly in respect of the former USSR states....

[Filatov] In my opinion it is natural that the fate of Russians, even if they are abroad, concerns our deputies: Whether that deputy is a patriot from the "Rossiya" group or a patriot from "Democratic Russia." The difference is in who sets which aim. There are tendencies that support the president and his reforms, and there are those who are in constructive opposition to him. And there are sociopolitical movements and, accordingly, factions of the Supreme Soviet that do not accept authority as it is. However, they are frightened to criticize this authority directly. And one way of solving this question of authority is through interethnic conflicts. If the president and the Supreme Soviet are striving through political means to resolve national problems and this is their concept, then these forces either issue demands to unite some or other territories to Russia, or to introduce troops under the guise of defending the Russian population. And it may be that their position, from the viewpoint of patriotism, is stronger because it is more defined, more rigid: It is as if a cruiser were to approach, collide with something, and then only save three compatriots. But we cannot allow ourselves to do this.

[Kuznetsova] Thank God....

[Filatov] We (the Supreme Soviet) and the government are criticized for indecisiveness. Yesterday in the Dniester region, today in Abkhazia: It is alleged that Russia does not want to defend.... But what does it mean to defend? To introduce troops and start a war? No. It is necessary to look for a range of political solutions.

[Kuznetsova] You are constantly saying "the Supreme Soviet." But that's just it—one section of parliament is striving for a political settlement to interethnic problems, and another section is simply provoking the emergence of tensions and ethnic conflicts. And what is really deplorable is that the reactionary wing in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is growing stronger. This is clear in the case of Crimea, the Black Sea Fleet, and earlier in the situation in the Dniester region. Is there really such a configuration of forces in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet whereby the liberal-democratic wing is waning before our very eyes and parliamentary policy is becoming increasingly forceful?

[Filatov] At any rate, this is by far the most obvious configuration of forces here. In respect of Crimea and South Ossetia, several decisions were made. We were on the brink, and in parliament at the moment patriotic forces like the "Rossiya" faction are playing first violin.

[Kuznetsova] These forces have not changed tactics. However, it is not them, through their actions in parliament, but actually Yeltsin (whom the group "Rossiya" does not like) who has achieved success both in South Ossetia and in the Dniester region. Isn't this a paradox?

[Filatov] I believe that these problems should be dealt with first and foremost by the president and the Security Council. Parliament should get involved, particularly when the executive authorities are lagging behind. If only decisions had been made in good time.... But even the statement on the situation surrounding the Abkhaz conflict was late—so the republics forwarded a demand to convene an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet. If the Security Council had taken measures a little earlier, such a demand may never have been voiced. Although I am always left with the thought: Wasn't this actually a well-planned action? Because underneath its banners the slogan "Confederation of Mountain Peoples" is being raised forcefully. This idea, for me, is in some senses a threat to the legitimate authority that now exists in the republics of the North Caucasus.

[Kuznetsova] The fifth session—extraordinary or not—is near at hand. And you don't have to be a prophet to say that the "Rossiyskoye Yedinstvo" [Russian Unity] bloc will strike at the president's national policy. Do you think that they will succeed in once again putting pressure on the president and weakening him? Are there the forces to do this?

[Filatov] These factions and blocs are exploiting "forceful patriotism"—this is their platform. Of course, if the task is set to achieve the best position for the Russian people through any channels, then nothing the president does will please them. And then this is war to the victory....

[Kuznetsova] Or defeat.

[Filatov] But if you see the most important thing as being that we must not subject people to violence, then the policy chosen by the president is the right one. It is another matter if something does not please parliament—then there are various ways of exerting influence, including the refusal to ratify agreements.

[Kuznetsova] In the final analysis a great deal is said about the need to defend the rights of Russians, and there are sufficient defenders of this policy. But what about the rights of the minorities in Russia? How can a rise in xenophobia be avoided?

[Filatov] The people are wise. If such antagonism is manifested by the people, then as a rule it concerns representatives of a state where there is no respect for human rights, and where lawlessness reigns. Take Chechniya. So many unpleasant situations have occurred in our country! And it is because there is legal anarchy there. They have abolished all laws, they are arming themselves, and then they are going to Abkhazia, for example. And of course, people object when all of this spills over in our direction. But I think, nevertheless, that these are temporary phenomena.

[Kuznetsova] When it happens that national questions have to be resolved in the Security Council, do you speak on behalf of parliament or does your personal viewpoint continue to take precedence?

[Filatov] The mechanism is like this. I hand any problem over to be studied in the Supreme Soviet committees and commissions, particularly the Defense and Security Committee or the Soviet of Nationalities. Then I discuss the position with the Supreme Soviet chairman. And an exchange of views is already going on in the Security Council itself. Five people (the president, Rutskoy, Skokov, Gaydar, and I) have the right to a casting vote and we initial all documents. The remaining council members have a consultative vote. The right to the final signature is reserved for the president.

One of my concerns in this Council is to ensure that its decisions do not contradict legislation. On this point, the president supported me strongly, literally from the first session.

[Kuznetsova] Does the Security Council elaborate the state's military-political policy?

[Filatov] It is closer to the truth to say that circumstances today are forcing it to deal with this.

[Kuznetsova] Tell me, do military interests dominate in the Security Council, for example when the issue concerns the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from former USSR republics?

[Filatov] There are military considerations, but in fact socioeconomic considerations prevail. But the error that Gorbachev and Shevardnadze committed in the Western and Northern Groups of Forces set a precedent. And it is according to this precedent that other states are also trying to solve this problem now after Germany.

[Kuznetsova] Do you think it was wrong to do this?

[Filatov] It was wrong to sign a single document without having a comprehensive program for restationing the Armed Forces. There were two points of reference: the date and the money. But we know that both are tied up with a program, but they did come up with one. Moreover, the money received from Germany still has to be divided up between Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. So today, there being such an unfortunate precedent for our state, we are forced to withdraw troops and locate them in places that are not ready to receive them. The Baltic States are crying "deadline!"—and that's all.

[Kuznetsova] Clearly you will have to submit to the logic of the "precedent" which has been set nevertheless.

[Filatov] I could agree, but.... It is vital to maintain our fairly rigid condition that if this is to be done then it must be through joint efforts. There are, of course, various situations. For example, we wanted to withdraw the Army from the Dniester region, so we simply could not stick to this. There was an attempt to seize hardware in Nakichevan, and this partially succeeded. At that time the Defense Ministry was faced with a problem: Either to fight our way out, or to suffer material losses but leave peacefully. And it was necessary urgently to withdraw troops into Russia from the conflict zone.

[Kuznetsova] At the very least, this is an effort to preserve the Army. But what about defense capability? And what about our borders?

[Filatov] A great deal depends on how the neighboring states react to this. If they maintain their borders with our troops, including border troops, then there are no problems [Yesli sokhranyayut u sebya granitsy s nashimi, v tom chisle pogranichnymi voyskami,—net problem]. But if normal conditions are not created for the protection of the border and our border troops find themselves in a humilitating situation, which is what happened in Azerbaijan, for instance, then we will have to move the border or reach an agreement with that particular state without delay.

[Kuznetsova] Even if a certain state agrees to preserve the border in its previous form, how can Russia feel safe, if it has a common border with Tajikistan, for example. After all, southern Tajikistan is gravitating toward northern Afghanistan—they have their own interests, and this includes the border, too. In practical terms the Tajik Government, which is signing a border agreement with Russia, is not in control of the situation. Russian soldiers are suffering; as a result, so is Russia.

[Filatov] Separate decisions must be made for each state. The borders with the Baltic countries must be closed immediately. We were already prepared to start constructing a border with certain countries, but time showed us that there was no need for it. As for Georgia, in that case we did not want to but we have now been forced to do so, and the sooner the better.

[Kuznetsova] Sergey Aleksandrovich, you are part of the delegation that is going to Tokyo with Yeltsin. What do you think of the problem of the "Northern Territories," which has essentially turned from an international problem into an ethnic problem for Russia?

[Filatov] For the USSR these islands were a piece of Russia, but no one asked its opinion at that time. But now, without having (legally) participated in the events of previous years, Russia has been left to face this very complex problem.

I think that the sooner Japan takes part in developing these islands (and they are in a sorry state), the faster we will solve the problem. Maybe we will not have to establish rigid borders on the Kurils today, now that we have given up the "enemy" concept, both in relations with Japan and the United States. We must strive to develop the kind of relations that exist in Europe.

[Kuznetsova] Does it not seem to you that Yeltsin will find the Kurils more difficult than any interthnic conflict that has affected the interests of the Russians? Whatever he does in this situation, everything will turn out to his disadvantage.

[Filatov] No, that is not true. I think there is something else involved here. For example, I know that Boris Nikolayevich has not yet formulated a definitive stance

on the islands, unless we are talking about a five-phase plan. But certain forces have started agitating the public with rumors about some kind of secret agreement under which the Kurils will be handed over (whether we like it or not). It is precisely because some groups are speculating with what the president says that he has the right to "withhold" his opinion.

The Japanese say that Yeltsin is a decisive man. That is true, but so far he has not distinguished himself by the kind of recklessness that would make him decide to hand over the Kurils tomorrow, and particularly in this sociopolitical situation.

[Kuznetsova] What is more important to Yeltsin: Telling the Russians that he is not going to give away an inch of land to the Japanese, thus spoiling relations with the latter, or keeping up his rating as a world-level politician who takes international legal norms into consideration, and is therefore capable of compromise?

[Filatov] I am opposed to extreme positions whereby you opt for either: I will not give them away, or go on, take them... Having recognized all the USSR's treaties, we are in a very difficult situation.

[Kuznetsova] So do we inevitably have to recognize the 1956 Declaration, too?

[Filatov] It has already been recognized. It was recognized as part of the package of documents when we were ratifying the agreements on the creation of the CIS. It was stipulated: "We recognize and guarantee the implementation of all treaties and agreements concluded by the USSR." Now the question is: How can this be done? Within what time frame? In what form? But I am worried about something else. The fact that the whole visit is boiling down to the problem of the islands. Because there are more global economic and military-political questions in relations between our countries and the Asia-Pacific region.

[Kuznetsova] But the Japanese very often make the possibility of establishing serious economic relations depend on resolving the South Kurils problem. They say bluntly: The Russians are not giving back the islands, and yet they want aid.

[Filatov] When we say that someone is giving us aid, for some reason we forget that this is not being done for free.

[Kuznetsova] But seemingly we are not paying our foreign debts....

[Filatov] These debts have been transferred from the USSR to Russia, and we took them on respectfully (unlike the Bolsheviks, incidentally, who refused to pay off Czarist loans). We will look for 32 billion and we will pay. That is why it must not be said that Russia is taking aid free of charge. We are talking about 24 billion, and for your information Germany is putting 100 billion a year into its eastern part. Of course, it suits certain political groups to represent the situation as though Gaydar had sold himself for 24 billion and is prepared to carry on down this path. (Surely not in Japan's case?) In actual fact, Gaydar is counting on internal forces and is only saying that we need 24 billion as a buffer to support the ruble.

[Kuznetsova] The new session is beginning: Are you expecting a new attack on the Yeltsin-Gaydar government? Will it withstand such an attack?

[Filatov] Any fight will be about the economic reform program. Parliament must not bring down this government. Particularly since (with the new people who have joined it) it is of a higher standard than the one we started off with. And if anything that has been projected is abandoned, this is liable to result in the exacerbation of the economic crisis.

[Kuznetsova] It has been said that Ruslan Khasbulatov has decided to change your powers as first deputy chairman of parliament.

[Filatov] This still has to be sorted out. At the moment I am worried about the desire to strengthen personal power and reestablish the administrative-edict system in the Supreme Soviet, not without the help of the apparat milieu.

Khasbulatov Discusses Army Problems With Group

PM1409150592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Oleg Adamtsevich: "Army Can Count on the Support of Parliament"]

[Text] On 8 September Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, received a group of representatives of parties, movements, and public organizations of servicemen and reservists [voyennoobyazannyye] and members of their families, veterans of the Armed Forces, Afghan veterans, and victims of Chernobyl who recently founded "Assembly," an international public organization.

Opening the meeting, Ruslan Khasbulatov said that the problems of the Army and Navy, which have become so acute in recent times, did not arise overnight, but accumulated over decades, and today—particularly when a rule-of-law state is being built—cannot but be of concern to parliament.

The Army, Khasbulatov stressed, can firmly count on parliament's support in solving its urgent problems.

Russian People's Deputy V. Urazhtsev, chairman of the "Shield" Union, remarked in his speech that the laws which have been adopted by no means always operate. Servicemen have not received the housing they are "owed" by local organs of power, although the Russian president issued a special decree requiring that this be done. As a result homelessness in the Army and Navy is growing steadily. Servicemen can obtain land to create private farms and construction enterprises only with difficulty, and not everywhere.

V. Sadovnik, chairman of the "Assembly" public organization, spoke about the socioeconomic position of servicemen, especially those discharged into the reserve in these difficult times. These problems, he believes, are partly down to the absence of laws.

Many interesting proposals were also voiced at the meeting on the social adaptation of servicemen discharged from the Armed Forces in connection with reductions.

A. Verkhozyan, member of the "Assembly" Council, spoke about the proposals for funding these programs.

All these questions met with lively support and understanding from the chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. He said that he will examine the whole package of proposed documents within the next few days.

Regional Affairs

Chechen President Strengthens Border Defenses

OW1309161492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1544 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of the Chechen Republic (a republic within Russia which declared its independence) D. Dudayev had a session with the representatives of the Security and Defense Ministries on concentration of the Russian forces on all the Chechen borders. Dudayev signed an order charging all the paramilitary armed structures with the responsibility of conducting necessary measures to strengthen the defense capability of the republic. Sources close to the government and the president report that a pressure is expected to be exerted along the whole perimeter of the Chechen borders. For the time being a tense situation was noted on its border with Dagestan.

According to messages received from Groznyy, a Russian military unit began to strengthen its positions near a Dagestan village of Akbolt-Yurt situated in 300 meters from the border between Dagestan and the Chechen Republic. More than 20 thousand troops have been concentrated over a short period of time, among them armed volunteers from Chechen Republic who fought on the Abkhazian territory. A Russian officer, who came to participate in the negotiations, declared that one unit was brought in the region on request of the Dagestan government from Nagorno-Karabakh to put an order [as received] on the border between Dagestan and Chechen Republic. Following the negotiations the Russian forces moved their positions 5 kilometers in the depth of the Dagestan territory. Units of the Chechen armed formations are supervising the situation on the border between Dagestan and Chechen Republic.

Chechenia, Dagestan Agree To Buffer Zone

LD1409185792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] A buffer zone has been set up on the border between the Chechen Republic and Dagestan. This was stated by the ANI agency, which quoted the Checheniya state and news service.

In the early morning of 13 September, the Russian regiment special purpose units that were recently withdrawn from Nagorno-Karabakh territory were moved up to Checheniya's borders from the direction of Dagestan. According to available reports, in response to this move, the forces of the Checheniya National Guard and about 120,000 residents of Gudyminskiy Rayon were mobilized into the area of the Checheniya-Dagestan border. On the evening of 13 September, Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev issued a decree to strengthen the defense and the borders of the republic.

The IPRINDA agency has reported that, after talks with the commander of the regiment, it became possible to agree on setting up a 5-km buffer zone with Checheniya observers and posts monitoring the movement of the Russian troops.

'Small Radioactive Leak' at Kola Power Station

LD1409163492 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1500 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] There was a small radioactive leak at a nuclear power station in the Kola Peninsula on 12 September. According to the Finnish Center for Radiation and Nuclear Safety, the leak at Russia's Polyarnyye Zori power station did not cause any danger to the environment, nor have any increased radiation level been detected in the area around the station. Measurements in Finland have not revealed any above-normal radiation levels.

According to the Russian authorities, the leak occurred in the cooling apparatus of the power station, which is situated on the shores of Lake Imandra. The Polyarnyye Zori nuclear power station has four 440-megawatt reactors of the same type as in Loviisa [Finland]. The Finnish Center for Radiation and Nuclear Safety learned about the leak at Polyarnyye Zori from Yleisradio's Radio Lapland.

Tatar Criminal Groups Linked With U.S. Mafia

OW1509115992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The general annual rate of the growth of crime in Tatarstan is 25% while only 51% of cases are being uncovered. This was disclosed at a Kazakh news conference by Interior Ministry and KGB representatives.

Criminal groups are growing increasingly aggressive, well-armed and brazen in their efforts to destroy their competitors.

Since the beginning of the year 86 organized gangs have been discovered and 56 cases of racket registered, 1,000 firearms in legal possession were surrendered or confiscated. There is growth [as received] theft of firearms and ammunition from army units and most of them are transported to the hot spots of the CIS.

According to the chief of the anti-corruption section of the Tatar KGB Colonel Davletgildiev, there is proof of connections between local criminal groups and mafia structures in the United States and Germany. Reports are also coming about the criminal activities of Tatars in East Europe.

International Affairs

Premier on Surprise Moscow Visit, Gaydar Talks

MK1209143592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Sep 92 p 1

[NEGA report under "Ukraine" rubric: "Ukrainian Economy Will Withstand Pressure From Russia, Vitold Fokin, Who Arrived To See Yegor Gaydar, Promised"]

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin paid a surprise visit to Moscow 10 September and held talks with acting Russian Federation Government Chairman Yegor Gaydar.

Vitold Fokin told your NEGA agency correspondent the following about the results of these talks: "As we know, the situation has deteriorated greatly in connection with the crisis in enterprises' payment functions, that is, banking systems are not carrying out their basic function—settling accounts promptly between enterprises for output supplied. Paradoxical situations are occurring when individual associations and major industrial enterprises which have a big positive balance can neither settle their accounts with suppliers in return for raw materials and other materials or pay out earnings on time.

"In Moscow I held fruitful talks with Mr. Gerashchenko in the Russian Central Bank, and then with Mr. Gaydar. I will not reveal the mechanism, but I believe that the nonpayment problem may be resolved in the near future. An interbank agreement has been signed, and we are waiting for the commission that is going to outline a whole range of vital mechanisms to improve our mutual relations to finish its work. Tomorrow everything will depend on Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is to confirm our calculations. I am not going to wait for a meeting with him; Yegor Timurovich has taken that duty upon himself. I think he will tell the Russian president what we have agreed."

Vitold Fokin gave the following answer when asked whether he believes that Moscow's economic pressure on Kiev, which Ukrainians are talking about a great deal, may prevent the further development of the Ukrainian economy, and whether such pressure exists at all: "Yes, there is pressure, but I hope that the Ukrainian economy will withstand this pressure, because Russian enterprises are not in a particularly good state either. Nevertheless, I am optimistic. We will withstand," Vitold Fokin stated.

Navy Critical of Fleet Commander's Actions

LD1309103192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian Navy has issued a statement sharply criticizing the stances and actions of Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet. The statement notes that through his remarks, the admiral discredits the very idea of creating a Ukrainian Navy, and tries to disrupt the work of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Commission which is working in Black Sea naval schools. All this must be regarded as an attempt to abrogate the agreements between Ukraine and Russia signed in Dagomys and Yalta, the statement notes.

Supreme Soviet Delegation in U.S. for Meetings

Meets With Cheney

LD1209183292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine Ivan Plyushch, who heads the parliamentary delegation of Ukraine, met in Washington with the U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney. Under discussion were issues of cooperation between Ukraine and the United States of America in military spheres, in particular in strategic nuclear arms reduction, the demilitarization and conversion of defense industry. Ivan Plyushch declared that the Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Nuclear Weapons will occupy one of the priority places on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Ukraine's parliament which is to open on the 15 September. At the same time Ivan Plyushch underlined that Ukraine is interested to get international guarantees of its national security after the elimination of nuclear weapons on its territory. Richard Cheney said the United States of America regards Ukraine as an equitable partner [as heard] and comes out for the establishment and development of direct contacts with Ukraine in all spheres, the military sphere included.

Trip Ends; Delegation Leader Comments

LD1309013492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1452 GMT 12 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington September 12 TASS—A delegation of 10 Ukrainian parliamentarians, which visited Washington this week for talks with congressmen and top-ranking officials of the Bush administration, said it could learn from the U.S. democratic system.

"We have come to study the experience of a developed democratic state," Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, told journalists. "Our visit was so organised as to give us an insight into the principle of self-government and, especially, ways to achieve a balance between local and federal authorities. We ourselves are not sufficiently experienced in this respect."

Ukrainian guests spent their first week in Ohio, mainly Cleveland and Columbus, where they visited several farms, food factories and industrial plants. They also

met leaders of administrations of cities and the state, representatives of Ohio's farmers' bureau and other agricultural organisations.

Talks on Agriculture; Meets With Foley

LD1309211792 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Concluding its working visit to the United States, the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation headed by Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch visited the U.S. Department of Agriculture. During a protracted discussion with Deputy Agriculture Secretary Robert Green, the future of direct long-term agricultural cooperation between the two countries was discussed.

Robert Green explained to the deputies the structure, the budgetary policy, programs, and trends of this major U.S. department. The U.S. experience in supporting farms by granting consultative, credit, and technical assistance to individual farmers excited particular interest among members of the parliamentary delegation.

There was also a dialogue about [word indistinct] exchange of specialists, the delivery of mineral fertilizers to Ukraine, means of protecting plants, the mutual passing of information, and the exchange of agricultural statistics. The discussion also covered the question of creating joint agricultural enterprises and the effects of international projects on agro-industrial production.

Oleh Bilorus, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States took part in the discussions in the Department of Agriculture.

The Ukrainian parliamentary delegation also had a meeting with representatives of Washington businesses and of the State of Maryland. Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch delivered a speech at the meeting.

At a meeting with Thomas Foley, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch said that direct contacts between Ukrainian and U.S. legislators are an important feature of the Ukrainian Supreme Council's activities.

The Supreme Council chairman drew Foley's attention to a certain vagueness about Ukraine in the legal acts of the U.S. Congress. In particular, a number of draft laws still refer to Ukraine as being among the republics of the former USSR. This does not correspond to the role and the place of Ukraine in the world community as a powerful independent country with all the attributes of statehood, Ivan Plyushch emphasized.

Plyushch stressed that the treatment of the CIS as a new state which emerged on the remnants of the former Soviet Union is a mistake. With the declaration of independence which was confirmed during a nationwide referendum in December last year, and with the recognition of Ukraine by more than 120 countries, it has become an international entity enjoying full rights. As such, it expects its partners to adopt an appropriate attitude.

The Supreme Council chairman pointed out that the Ukrainian Parliament is ready to cooperate actively with U.S. congressmen and to study the rich experience of one of the oldest legislative bodies in the world. Ivan Plyushch mentioned that when it was drafting the new constitution of Ukraine, which will soon be examined by the Supreme Council, the Ukrainian Parliament carefully studied the Constitution of the United States, along with the constitutions of other democratic countries, and also the methods by which their principles are implemented.

Oleh Bilorus, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United States, and members of the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation were present at the meeting in the U.S. Congress.

The parliamentary delegation left for home yesterday.

U.S. Federal Aviation Delegation Visits Kiev

LD1209174792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] A delegation from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration visited Kiev, 9-11 September, and held a series of meetings with representatives of the Ukrainian Civil Aviation Administration, Ukrainian Airlines, Borispol airport, the Antonov Design Bureau and the Kiev Civil Aviation Engineers' Institute. The delegation's Ukrainian hosts provided information on the Ukrainian civil aviation system and industry. Both sides discussed prospects for future cooperation between the Federal Aviation Administration and Ukrainian Civil Aviation authorities. The delegation met with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Roman Popadyuk and briefed him on their discussions in Kiev. The delegation noted to the ambassador the very positive impressions they obtained from their meetings in Kiev and expressed the Federal Aviation Administration's desire to continue cooperation with Ukrainian Civil Aviation authorities initiated during this visit.

Kravchuk on Relations With CIS States

OW1409131492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1220 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The economic relations of Ukraine with the CIS states cannot be administratively invented or formed by anybody. They must exist on an objective ground and develop in a mutually profitable direction", the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk declared on Sunday [13 September] addressing the Ukrainian population over the TV.

He pointed out that the market itself will define the priorities in relations with the West. In particular,

Ukraine is interested in the Western technologies. "If we stay only in the framework of the CIS than we shall never overcome technological backwardness". [Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 14 September, in a similar report, adds: "On his arrival in Brussels he added: A commonwealth is not an efficient form of existence."]

The Ukrainian President also said that the policy of his state is peaceful, democratic, anti-nuclear, and non-alignment.

German Bankers Conclude Visit to Kiev

LD1309221292 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 12 Sep 92

[No video available]

[Excerpts] As we have already reported, a delegation of representatives from the German bank [Deutsche Bank] has been staying in Kiev. It had official meetings with the head of the Ukrainian Government and with bankers and businessmen of the republic. The delegation's members organized a news conference for Ukrainian and foreign journalists at the conclusion of their stay in Ukraine.

The news conference lasted nearly an hour, and the journalists satisfied themselves, once again, with the German bank's good intentions toward Ukraine and its market. It turned out that everybody hopes for good relations with the Ukrainian government, entrepreneurs, and banks—and believes that both sides will gain from the ensuing cooperation. At this difficult and complex time, Ukraine will gain material help, that is long-term currency credits, while Germany will gain a worthy and strong partner in the very near future. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] For you, Ukraine is the most stable state of the CIS republics. Please tell me, if the economic crisis does not stop, but continues to deepen, how will the German bank act?

[Unidentified speaker in German, with superimposed Ukrainian translation] Ukraine really is stable, and today's conversation with representatives of the Ukrainian Government confirmed this. We were told that the reasons for the crisis in Ukraine have already been clarified, and Ukraine knows how to respond to this crisis. The government is ready to introduce privatization and after (?some time) will lead Ukraine to a market economy. It is these very processes that we want to support. We are already doing something about this; for example, we are training legal and banking specialists in Germany, and we will continue to support this process. [end recording]

Banks To Begin Operations in Russia

LD1209172292 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Summary] The Joint Stock Commercial Bank of Ukraine, together with Promstroybank [Industrial Construction Bank] and (?Ukrsudbank), intend to open 10-15 branches in the Russian Federation, particularly in such regions as the Far East and the Kuban.

The branches would act as a kind of corridor for the speedy exchange between Ukrainian and Russian enterprises. At present, in Russia, there is only one branch of a Ukrainian bank, while in Ukraine there are more than 20 branches of Russian banks.

Kravchuk Departs for Belgium EC Talks

LD1409101492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0951 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev September 14 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk left for Belgium today. He will pay an official visit to the Commission of European Communities in Brussels. He is accompanied in the trip by Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Slepichev, chairman of the board of the Ukrainian National Bank Vadim Getman and other officials. According to the president's press service, the programme includes Kravchuk's meeting with president of the Commission Jacques Delors, as well as Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Willy Claes.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 0952 GMT on 14 September reports that President Kravchuk has arrived in the Belgian capital for a one-day visit.]

Chinese Representative From Jilin Pays Visit

LD1209204492 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Tian Jiaoshan, representative of the Chinese province of Jilin, arrived in Kiev today.

Tian Jiaoshan is in Ukraine for the first time. Therefore, he planned his visit so that first he would be able to acquaint himself with the capital, the standard of living and people, and then start holding meetings and talks.

In Ukraine, not only does he represent the government of the province of Jilin—incidentally, this is one of the most developed provinces of China, the basis of heavy machine building and metallurgy—but also one of the largest companies engaged in import and export of metals and minerals as he is its president.

During the visit, meetings are planned with Hrynyov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine; Saliy, the Ukrainian president's representative in Kiev;

with the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations; and with business circles in Ukraine. [passage omitted]

Servicemen Continue Returning From Caucasus

LD1109225892 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 11 Sep 92

[No video available]

[Summary] The press center of the Ukrainian Air Force announced that the transfer of servicemen, members of their families, and citizens of Ukraine to the fatherland from the Transcaucasus Military District and Central Asia is continuing. From 13 April, 6,708 people have already been transferred including 2,514 families.

National Affairs

Grain Procurement Fulfills 70% of Requirement

LD1309060892 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The Ukraine Bread Grain Production Ministry reports that the state has received 10.2 million tonnes of grain, which is only 70 percent of the requirement established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The minimum grain procurement established by the Cabinet of Ministers for bread grain growers in Poltava oblast is 959,000 tonnes. Only 618,000 tonnes of grain have been received so far in Poltava oblast, which is only 64 percent of the requirement. Nearly 4,000 tonnes has been bought from the population. Only 1,000 tonnes of grain has been received by the State from farmers.

Fokin Understands Need to Buy Grain Abroad

LD1109191192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] To all appearances Ukraine will not avoid purchasing grain abroad, republican Prime Minister Vitold Fokin believes. According to him, the volume of grain import will remain the same as last year, somewhere in the region of 11 million tonnes.

Ukraine's Agriculture and Foodstuffs Ministry reported that this year's harvest in Ukraine exceeds 40 million tonnes, which is 800 kilogram per capita. This is one of the top ten results. However, farms, dissatisfied with grain-purchasing prices, prefer to hang on to their grain, or use it as payment to farmers. Despite the government's embargo on grain export, farmers are staking mainly on stock exchanges and barter deals.

Parliament Session Opens 15 Sep

OW1509113692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A regular session of the Ukrainian parliament has opened in Kiev. Opening it the speaker Ivan Plyushch said that the government plan of pressing measures to deepen economic reforms is not ready today and will not be submitted for discussion. The plan should name concrete steps to be taken to carry out the national economic strategy approved last spring.

The speaker read out a letter from the prime-minister saying that the plan was discussed at a joint session of the government and state council which was attended by the heads of standing committees of parliament. According to Vitold Fokin, the final version will be submitted to parliament on September 27 the latest.

In his letter the prime-minister suggested discussing first laws on remuneration, the taxation of companies, labor disputes, employment, economic development, debts as well as resolutions on priority directions of scientific and technological development.

The parliament is discussing the agenda.

New Faction Plans To Demand Speaker's Report

OW1509113292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliamentary faction of the influential New Ukraine movement intends to call for a report of the speaker on the implementation of recently adopted laws and regulations, in particular the resolution on a cabinet reform.

The parliamentary session begins in Kiev today. A package of economic laws, the new Ukrainian constitution and other issues are on its agenda.

New Ukraine believes that the implementation of the latest economic proposals of the Fokin cabinet will actually return the country to the old system of management by decree.

Border Forces Tally Illegal Exports Jan-Jun

LD1309221792 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Nearly 18,000 attempts at illegal export of consumer goods beyond Ukraine's borders by enterprises, organizations, and citizens have been registered by law enforcement bodies during the first half of this year. Goods worth 1,054,000,000 rubles have been confiscated, and that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Analysis of Reasons for Economic Recession

AU1409101592 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 3 Sep 92 p 6

[Article by Leonid Korniyenko, Ukraine's first deputy minister of the economy: "1 Percent of Recession. What's Behind It?"

[Text] **The main task for the future development of Ukraine's industry is to restructure it in order to adapt it to human needs and, as a result, to fill the domestic market with means of production and consumer goods.**

In the former Union's social division of labor, industry was mainly oriented toward manufacturing means of production, and this practically ruled out the possibility for Ukraine's economy to develop and function as it should in an independent state.

The centralized management that led to such a situation also ruled out the possibility of adopting independent decisions with regard to changing the structure of industrial production.

As a result of this, as early as in the 1970's, there started a hidden decline in the efficiency of production of manufactured goods, since with the increase, in terms of cost, of the volume of this production, the expenditure on it grew even faster. These processes became obvious at the end of the 1980's when a decline, both in quantity and cost, in the volume of manufactured goods started. Besides, the intensification of crisis phenomena also had a negative effect on the process of reproduction in the industrial apparatus. In 1991, the level of suitability of the fixed productive capital in industry reached 54.2 percent. The situation turned out to be the worst in basic industries. For example, in the metallurgical complex and in the chemical and petrochemical industry, the wear exceeds 50 percent.

Despite the fact that, over the first half of 1992, the decline in the production of manufactured goods decreased, it was not possible to change the negative trends in any appreciable way. For example, compared with the corresponding period of 1991, the volume of industrial production decreased by 12.3 percent. Enterprises of ferrous (14 percent slump) and nonferrous (21 percent decrease) metallurgy, chemical (15 percent down), oil processing (24 percent decline), and foodstuffs (23 percent drop) branches of industry are in a very difficult situation.

This is due to the fact that reform is still proceeding with great difficulty and that measures for its normalization are not always consistent or effective. Unfortunately, the effect of disorganization of material and technological provision, progressive aging of the fixed capital, and blatant distortions in price interrelations could not be reduced. Practically all branches of industry in all regions are in crisis. This applies, in particular, to those branches responsible for technological reequiping the national economy and producing foodstuffs for the population. Nor do the high level of monopolization, the complicated structure of production, the delay in privatization, the deterioration in the management of the branches, and the worsening of discipline and order in industry promote a stabilization of the economy.

As of today, 1 percent of the decline in production leads to losses in manufactured goods totalling 232 million rubles [R], in finished rolled metal products—by 175 thousand tonnes, steel pipes—by 30 [thousand tonnes], cement—by 112 [thousand tonnes], crude oil—by 290 [thousand tonnes], diesel fuel—by 60 [thousand tonnes], mineral fertilizers—by 22 thousand tonnes, excavators—by 50 units, freight carriages—by 139 units, tractors—by 503 units, meat—by 11,200 tonnes, animal fat—by 2,100 tonnes, oil—by 5,500 tonnes, products from whole milk—by 30,000 tonnes, canned food—by 14 million conditional cans, knitwear—by 1.5 million units, footwear—by 868,000 pairs, television sets—by 19,000 units, tape recorders—by 10,500 units, and refrigerators—by 4,600 units.

If, during the current year, the regressive trend in economic activity is maintained, manufactured goods will be produced in an amount worth R50 billion less than in 1991.

A continuing decline in industry may lead to irreversible changes, and therefore, the goal of economic reform lies primarily in elaborating and implementing such measures as would halt the decline in the volume of production and would make it possible to stabilize the economy. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to search for effective levers capable of stimulating the increase of production, intensification of economic ties, and improvement of economic management. We need more resolute measures with regard to restructuring our economy, and priority here must be given to the social sphere.

All economic relations in industry also need to be radically renewed. In view of the fact that one can hardly expect appreciable allocations from the budget, national and foreign private capital must cooperate to mutual advantage. To this end, it is necessary to create solid guarantees for their functioning. It is also worth mentioning that of great benefit would be the utilization of defense machine building enterprises for material and technological servicing of branches of the national economy, first and foremost, for the production of civil output and consumer goods.

Unless all these problems are comprehensively resolved, we will not be able to successfully oppose the current negative trends.

Unemployment Statistics Show Increasing Trend

LD1109193392 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] The republican employment center reports that almost 45,000 unemployed have now been officially registered in Ukraine. Altogether there are already over

300,000 people without work. There exists a so-called covered unemployment when, through reduction of production volumes, enterprises send part of the collective on an unpaid leave, organize work on reduced schedules. According to the forecasts, next year 1.5 million able-bodied citizens of Ukraine will not be able to find work. In these conditions, a number of ministries and trade union associations organize training centers and retraining courses. A state employment program is also being worked out.

Vice Premier Assesses Economic Prospects

PM1409150992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by Ilya Tikhomirov under the "Grimaces of Reform" rubric: "Mirage at End of Tunnel"]

[Text] Kiev—Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk has held a conference with representatives of administrations and soviets and representatives of central executive structures and the legislative branch. Problems of the economic reform, the food supply, cooperation between branches, etc. were discussed. Vice Premier V. Simonenko explained clearly that without the privatization of land, no privatization is possible, and without a change in the legislation on leasing there will be nothing to privatize in time for the start of privatization. It is also necessary to remove the state property fund from the Supreme Soviet's jurisdiction and transfer it to the executive branch. The Supreme Soviet should form an antimonopoly committee and endow it only with control functions. Finally, it is necessary to create a state mortgage bank.

V. Simonenko ended his report on an optimistic note: A glimmer of light can now be seen at the end of the tunnel....

A different tone predominated in the debate. Kiev Administration Head I. Saliy warned: "Two or three more strikes, and we will become an underdeveloped state. Everything is possible for us, only privatization without strong power is impossible." His Lvov colleague, S. Davimuka, was quite discouraging: "Let us be honest—we do not have a clear program of economic reform."

So what is at the end of the tunnel?

Official Views Privatization Legislation

LD1309042792 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] UKRINFORM carries a report today on the regular sitting of the Coordinative Council on Issues of Economic Reform in Ukraine which took place today in Kiev. Vadym Vasyliv, acting head of the Fund of State Property of Ukraine, delivered a report. He noted that mass privatization will begin within two months. During this short time the government needs to refine nearly 40 legally binding acts, so that the mechanism of destatization is clear. The fund has prepared a package of documents which will facilitate the purchase of State property.

Civic Congress Denounces Separatism

LD1409174792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1739 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Donetsk September 14 TASS—The Ukrainian Civic Congress issued a statement on Monday [14 September] denouncing Ukraine's withdrawal from the Commonwealth of Independent States, which is being advocated by Ukrainian national patriotic forces. The Civic Congress, comprising fellow-thinkers from eight Ukrainian regions, said that "Ukraine was vitally interested in preserving contacts and cooperation which have existed between CIS member-states for tens and hundreds of years.

The statement calls upon the president, the parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers to support Nursultan Nazarbayev's recent proposals on measures to strengthen the Commonwealth of Independent States.

It was announced that at the forthcoming CIS summit scheduled for September, 25, Nazarbayev intends to make an official proposal on the establishment of a defence and banking union and organise a coordinating economic council of the Commonwealth.

The opposition believes that a policy of "rough change and sharp actions" should give way to the "common sense and simple concern about the welfare of citizens". In this connection the statement negatively assessed the attempts made by nationalistic circles to achieve Ukraine's leaving the rouble zone and the immediate introduction of the Ukrainian currency hryvna.

The statement pointed out that such measures could make the process of Ukraine's self-isolation "irreversible" and bring about "a rapid collapse of the financial and monetary system followed by a total collapse of the Ukrainian economy."

New Coalition Advocates Dissolving Parliament

LD1309195592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Summary] More than 10 organizations and political parties have come together to form the coalition: "New Parliament for an Independent Ukraine." The coalition has adopted a decision to start gathering signatures for a referendum for the dissolution of parliament, states the report.

Volodymyr Filenko, head of the "New Ukraine" association, explained that the reason for demanding the dissolution of parliament was that, out of 120 deputies who belonged to the opposition People's Council [Narodna Rada], only 45 remained in real opposition and also that most of the deputies in the parliament were once functionaries of the CPSU and as such, could not be trusted.

He added that the parliament, by its actions, was discrediting the idea of state independence, democracy, and market reform. According to the report, at least 3 million signatures must be gathered for a referendum to be held. Oleh Danyleyko, one of the leaders of the Ukrainian Republican Party (URP) stated that the URP, which had joined the coalition, had begun preparations for the gathering of signatures.

Groups Wants Kasatonov Elected Crimean President

OW1309175592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1549 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The representatives of the Russian Movement of Crimea were picketing the houses of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and the Prime Minister on Sunday [13 September] in Simferopol. According to the press center of the Republican Movement of Crimea, the demonstrators demanded their resignation and election of the commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Igor Kasatonov as a president of Crimea.

The participants of the demonstration demanded to defend the republic's constitution, to abolish the moratorium on referendum on Crimea's independence, dissolution of the Supreme Soviet, conducting of new elections, and improving of the economic situation on the peninsula.

Crimean Deputies Meet With Electors in Simferopol

OW1309175392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the press center of the Republican Movement of Crimea, a meeting of the electors with the people's deputies of the republic was held before the building of the Crimean supreme Soviet on Sunday [13 September]. The deputies received the electors' mandate to include into the agenda of the session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet to be opened on September 24 issues on adoption decrees "On Citizenship", "On Unities of Citizens, and "On Elections". The electors stand for preserving the Crimea's constitution as it is and to abolish a moratorium on referendum on the issue on the republic's independence.

The meeting which was attended by hundreds of Simferopol's residents was organized by the Republican Movement of Crimea (RMC). This is the first mass political meeting of the RMC and deputies adhering to this movement after a three months' interval caused by the parliamentary holidays. The meeting stressed the necessity to create the Crimean national guard to defend the constitution of the republic, to introduce a fixed membership in the RMC in order to have a thousand people necessary for registration of the Republican Party of Crimea.

Party of Economic Revival Founded in Crimea

LD1309215492 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] The Party of Economic Revival [Partiya Ekonomichnoho Vidrodzhennya] has been founded in Crimea. A session of its organizational committee took place in Simferopol. The participants of the session came to the conclusion that the new political organization must unite citizens regardless of their social situation, nationality, and religion.

The main requirement for those who wish to become members of this party is a realization of the need for the speediest formation of a socially oriented market economy system by legal and democratic means in an autonomous republic, along with active participation in the elaboration and implementation of policies reflecting the interests of people, above all those who have the least social protection and the poor.

The Party of Economic Revival of Crimea is striving for social partnership, national accord in Crimea, and civil peace. It is for renewal of ruined economic links, the preservation of a single economic space, and the improvement of the CIS.

Conference of Nationalists Held in Nikolayev

LD1309221192 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] The Conference of Nationalists of Southern Ukraine took place in Nikolayev. Representatives of neighboring Kherson and Odessa oblasts took part in its work apart from Nikolayev oblast representatives. A report on the national liberation movement in the Black Sea region attracted the greatest attention and received the general approval of those present. Quite a few new pages from the history of the nationalist underground movement in the south of Ukraine, particularly in Nikolayev and in northern regions of the oblast, were opened before the listeners.

Instruction Issued on Construction Investment in Lvov

LD1309210192 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Stepan Davymuka, presidential representative in Lvov oblast, has issued an instruction on the regulation of investment activity in capital construction and on provision of finance for it.

In particular, it obliges rayon administrations and town executive committees to transfer funds to customers during the course of the first half of September for paying off the debts of builders for work done in the first half of the year, from their own financial resources and by attracting special purpose funds and bank credits.

Belarus

Prime Minister Forms Group to Probe Power Abuse

OW1509113392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At instructions from the Belarusian Prime-Minister a working group has been set up to check the abuse of power by officials and to combat organized crime. The group is led by the deputy chief of the national security and defence department Colonel Valeriy Pavlov.

Germany Grants Credit for Development

PM1409154592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 92 First Edition p 7

[Report by Aleksey Yeroshenko: "Guarantees at a Price"]

[Text] Near and distant neighbors have had time to assess Belarus' polticial stability and its scrupulousness, not to say finickiness, in choosing business partners. In the CIS it is first and foremost Russia and Ukraine, and in Europe—Germany and France.

The accords with Germany, for example, were instantly backed up by credit of 100 million German marks from the FRG's financial base—the state credit and finance bank, set up after World War II to rebuild the shattered German economy. Its work experience enabled today's experts to map out, in an incredible short time by our standards, the most promising objectives in a long-term program for the reorganization of the Belarusian economy. Some of the projects are now ready for implementation.

Opposition Leader Assesses Presidential Hopefuls

OW1409182792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 14 Sep 92

[From "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Although the post of President has not yet been formally introduced in Belarus, struggle for it has already begun," Vladimir Zablotskiy, cochairman of the Belarusian Popular Front and "shadow" Prime Minister, said to our correspondent in an exclusive interview.

In Zablotskiy's opinion, there are two principal candidates to the post at present, Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich and Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich. Popular Front Chairman Zenon Poznyak, according to Zablotskiy, "is not at the moment thinking of becoming President and is firmly opposed to the immediate introduction of presidency since in the present situation this would serve to strengthen the power of the Communist bureaucracy, which still rules Belarus."

Zablotskiy believes "former Communist official" Kebich stands the most favorable chance of becoming President, for he "holds real power and controls the entire press monopolized by the Council of Ministers." At the same time, Zablotskiy does think that, if presidency is introduced by the next Supreme Soviet session, Poznyak will stand for the post as the candidate of the Popular Front and some political parties which will form a "bloc of democratic forces."

In Zablotskiy's view, the policy of Shushkevich and Kebich does not meet the interests of the people and has no future. He accuses Shushkevich of inadequate guidance of the Supreme Soviet, and Kebich, of a "short-sighted policy," in particular as regards Belarus's relations with Russia. Having described the package of agreements between the two states signed in Moscow on July 20 as a basis for a "military and political alliance," Zablotskiy said that, if the present-day opposition came to power, "our countries will be developing their relations on an entirely different basis, that of mutual benefit, and will be taking into consideration each other's interests."

At present, Zablotskiy believes, "Russia still treats us as a younger brother rather than an independent state equal to it." He is critical of Kebich's "shallow hope" that Russia will continue selling Belarus oil at prices lower than world ones. "Kebich, and Shushkevich too, are making various kinds of political concessions to Russia for the sake of lower oil prices, but sooner or later Russia will be forced to sell us oil at world prices," he said. He fears Belarus will ultimately have to pay a high price not only for Russian oil but for its political concessions as well.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Stanislav Shushkevich is at present in Germany on an official visit.

Russia Donates Funds for Chernobyl Cleanup

PM1409140192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[BELINFORM-TASS report under the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "Belarus Will Receive Additional Funds To Eliminate Aftermath of Chernobyl"]

[Text] Belarus has received 2 billion rubles from Russia to eliminate the aftermath of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Station.

Understanding the special nature of the situation which has been created in the republic, the Russian Government will this year allocate a further 5.141 billion rubles for these purposes.

Moldova

Official Urges Special Status for Dniester

AU1309192692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1755 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 13/9/1992—A representative of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Moldova, a member of the joint commission controlling the eastern zones, expressed his concern about a number of aspects of the activity of this body.

"A somehow uncertain situation was created," he said on radio Chisinau, "although representatives of the Dniester zone are involved in the putting in place of the provisions of the July 21 [Moscow] convention, and they are active in this respect, the presence of peacekeeping forces is being used by Tiraspol leaders to consolidate illegal state structures in the Dniester zone. We are feeling that all the forces of this self-styled republic have been headed towards this consolidation. We are also feeling that the population is extremely 'politicized,' [indoctrinated] made highly 'revolutionary' in an artificial way, on the basis of a well organized propaganda and disinformation campaign.

"Under these conditions," said the speaker, "I think we have to pass to another phase shortly, that of a political solution, based on the establishment of a special status for the Dniester area of the Republic of Moldova. A number of measures have been taken for a political settlement. But I refer to a real solution, as a result in time, as this interval between the so-called technical-military settlement and the political one has not been used to our advantage."

The representative of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Moldova pleaded for "the stepping up of bilateral negotiations on the status of the 14th Army and its withdrawal," and asked for "a rigorous control by international bodies of the provisions of the said convention, for which a CSCE mission has been invited to the Republic of Moldova. CSCE can grant assistance through its experts in international law, to avoid arbitrary or ill-meaning interpretations of international norms, regarding the political settlement of the conflict in the Republic of Moldova."

CSCE Envoy Arrives For Talks, Observations

Meets With Defense Minister

LD1209042392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2035 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By MOLDOVA PRESS-TASS]

[Text] Chisinau September 11 TASS—The signing of Moscow Agreement has played the decisive role in the separation of armed units of the sides to the Dniester conflict, the complete cease-fire, creation of conditions for the return of refugees and restoration of constitutional rights of people living in the conflict zone, Moldovan Defence Minister Pavel Kryange told CSCE head personal envoy Adam Daniel Rothfield today.

Positive on Dniester Process

OW1109141592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Adam-Daniel Rothfield, a representative for the chairman of the CSCE and director of the Stockholm international institute for researching world problems, gives positive marks to the process of establishing peace in the Dniester region, saying at the same time that Russia plays an important role in guaranteeing Moldova's territorial unity. On Thurday [10 September] he met in Chisinau with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur.

Meets with Parliament Chairman

AU1209175092 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Relayed via Iasi]

[Text] The members of the CSCE delegation led by Mr. Adam Daniel Rothfield, personal representative of the CSCE president, met today with Mr. Alexandru Mosanu, chairman of the Moldovan Parliament.

Mr. Mosanu saluted the CSCE's quick response to the Moldovan leadership's appeal asking it to send a delegation that could examine the social and political situation in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova. Related to this issue, the chairman of the Moldovan Parliament highlighted the fact that the Supreme Soviet of the former USSR and of late the reactionary forces in Russia tried and are still trying to do everything in their power to federalize the Republic of Moldova and to maintain that part of Europe under their control. Mr. Mosanu also stated that the authorities of the Republic of Moldova have made, and are making, considerable efforts aimed at peacefully settling the [Dniester] conflict and that the current visit of the CSCE delegation represents an important moment in those efforts.

After his speech, Mr. Mosanu held further talks with the CSCE delegation members behind closed doors.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Ion Butnariu and other official persons.

The CSCE delegation is scheduled to leave Chisinau tomorrow and fly to Kiev.

Delegation Concludes Visit

AU1209152592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1127 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 12/9/1992—The CSCE mission led by Adam Daniel Rothfield, personal representative of the CSCE president, concluded their visit to the Republic of Moldova paid at the request of the republic's authorities.

In an interview with Radio Chisinau, Mr. Rothfield stressed that the visit of the CSCE mission to Moldova was meant to elaborate recommendations on the ways, means, and methods of contributing to the greatest extent to turning the understanding covenanted between the beligerant [conflict] parties into a lasting peace apt to guarantee a political settlement of the situation. Mr. Rothfield expressed the belief that a settlement would be reached by observing the integrity of the Republic of Moldova, that a solution would be found satisfactory for the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova both on the basis of common interests and that of [peaceful] coexistence.

Moscow Convention Said Violated in Dniester

AU1209172292 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1651 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 12/9/1992—The so much wished and expected peace finds hardly room in some zones of the Republic of Moldova. Almost ever day savage acts are reported just as ill-treatment applied to people because they are Moldovans and fought in the recent conflict to defend the sovereignty of the republic. People still suffer much, are intimidated, scared, and chased. So, for instance, at Cocieri over ten people were maltreated [tortured] and even murdered.

Given the growing actions against the peaceful population, members of the Unified Control Commission made for Criuleni and Dubasari. They stated that more energetic action would be taken on the spot. There still were cases of violation of the [Moscow] convention, not too serious but causing unrest in the security area.

In their opinion the situation is alarming, more particularly that there are several Cossacks come from Russia to the town of Dubasari. [sentence as received]

Tiraspol Commander Blames Politicians for War

LD1209201992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The war in the Dniester region was unleashed by a bunch of politicians, Mikhail Bergman, Tiraspol military commandant, said in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA newspaper [Independent Moldova] today.

In his opinion, progressive forces, capable of protecting common people, should come to replace the present politicians in Moldova and the Dniester region. In spite of the fact that the military commandant's office has already confiscated about 1,000 weapons, the voluntary surrender of arms is going badly and, he thinks, the reason for this is the absence of the guarantee that the war will not resume.

Peace Process Described as Model for 'Hot Spots'

AU1509141292 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 5 Sep 92 p 11

[Article by Svitlana Chala in Chisinau: "Are the UN Blue Berets Needed in Moldova?"]

[Text] It seems that people in Moldova have begun to realize that peace in the Dniester region does not only mean stopping people from destroying themselves. It has become possible to enlist the services of Western businessmen. President Snegur pointed out in his speech on the republic's Independence Day that he hoped for an influx of foreign investments into the Moldovan economy as soon as stability is established on the left bank [of the Dniester].

It is not known yet whether the desirable streams of dollars will flow to Moldova. However, there is no doubt that every day of peace saves millions of rubles in the treasury. Over just one month after the peace-keeping forces were brought, Moldova signed a number of important economic agreements with other states. Besides, the severed ties between the republic and the CIS countries, including Ukraine, are returning to normal.

The republic will need 15 million rubles [R] to reconstruct what has been destroyed by the war plus the maintenance of the 43,000 strong national army. Let us add to this the losses caused by the drought, the steady decline in production at practically all industrial enterprises, and the paralysis of the construction branch—and one will understand the phrase that has lately become so popular in Moldova: "A bad peace is better than a good war."

A UN mission visited the Dniester region. This was the second arrival in Moldova of a group of international experts. The first visit took place two months earlier in the heat of battle. At that time, a car flying the UN flag was shot at in Bendery, and the negotiations were not held in the town. During the present visit, the members of the delegation noted the sharp changes amounting to the fact that, beside soldiers wearing the insignia of peace-keeping forces and of law-enforcement organs, there are no longer any other persons wearing military uniform. The town is busy healing its wounds. However, it is not easy to find the R4.2 billion necessary for reconstructing what has been destroyed. In addition to Tiraspol, Chisinau is also ready to provide assistance. Moldovan prime minister A. Sangheli, who visited the place, spoke with the leaders of the town council just about this. A point that deserves attention: A. Sangheli is the first Moldovan leader who has not been met with hostility in the Dniester region since the time of "language" strikes in the Russian-speaking region. It is

believed in the Dniester Region that the new premier and his cabinet can really become a government of national accord.

Representatives of Foreign Ministries of four states—Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, and Romania, who work in the republic—point to the atmosphere of trust in the Joint Control Commission and the readiness on the part of its members to reach compromise. However, a common thought is also being expressed: The peacekeeping forces have created an atmosphere in which the politicians can come to an agreement. Every day such decisions are delayed works against the peacekeeping processes. The political discussions on the status of the republic, the beginning of which President Snegur announced, have not, so far, proceeded beyond the resumption of the work of the joint parliamentary commission.

As regards the UN mission, the conclusions it made during the visit about the stabilization of the situation in the conflict zone cast doubt upon the need for the blue berets of this international organization to be present there. This is particularly true if one takes into account the budget deficit of the United Nations itself and the costs of bringing the UN peacekeeping units to Moldova .

Perhaps, the Dniester variant of settling conflicts could become a model for other hot spots in the CIS. It is easier to take what is near at hand instead of extending one's hand beyond the ocean.

Energy Official: Chisinau Not Ready for Winter

LD1309014392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The general director of the Moldovan department on power resources, (?Valeriy Ikonikov) says, Chisinau's housing projects may soon remain without heat and electricity. (?Ikonikov) feels the Moldovan capital is not ready for winter, neither is it getting ready. Its stocks of fuel will last only five to seven days and what (?Ikonikov's) department has falls short of the three billion roubles that can buy that much needed natural gas and black oil.

Decree Issued To Stabilize Business Finances

OW1009212692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1041 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Moldova President Mircea Snegur has issued an order to stabilize the finances of companies and strengthen settlement discipline. Under the decree all banks and public companies should pay the money they owed by September 9. The Finance Ministry must offer new credits at 10% interest and more for a term of up to two years. The National Bank is given the right to cash emission to cover the shortage of means of payment. The decree abolished higher tax rates for exports to countries of the ruble zone.

Dniester Establishes Customs, Border Controls

OW1109194192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Transdniestran-Moldovan Republic [as received] (TMR) passed a resolution "On the Establishment of Customs" beginning September 15 on the export of goods. They have already begun establishing customs control points, developing methods for licensing the export of goods, and defining the standards on exports.

On instruction from the TMR government, border control will be established within the structure of the republic's security department. The motivation was "the need to strengthen the security of the republic's borders and of the citizens living in the republic."

Dniester Republic Sets Up Banking System

LD1509065692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] On 13 September Vyacheslav Zagryadskiy, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester Republic, said that a banking system completely independent of that of Moldova has been formed in the Dniester Republic. The Ukrainian banks rendered great assistance in this, thanks to which accounts for offsetting have been opened in almost all the CIS republics. Now reciprocal computations between enterprises in the Dniester Republic and other republics will be effected, bypassing the national bank of Moldova.

Snegur Visits Western Areas

LD1109193592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Mircea Snegur is carrying out a working visit to the western rayons of Moldova today. He will visit the border town of Ungeny. According to the general concept of the creation of Moldovan free economic zones, this town is to become the center of one such zone. According to Chisinau sources, Snegur intends proposing that local entrepreneurs actively interact with Romanian business circles to provide local industry with raw materials and resources and also to deepen cooperation in the processing and sale of agricultural output.

People's Union Calls For Strengthened Independence

OW1409124192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1217 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The council of the Moldovan People's Union in Trans-Dniester has called for stopping the subversive activity of pro-Romanian agents locally and for implementing the bill on citizenship. According to the Olvia Press Agency, at its session held last weekend the council suggested that a special seal should be used to indicate in people's passports that they are citizens of the independent state of Trans-dniester.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Supports Economic Integration of CIS

OW1409124092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1217 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Addressing the 1st congress of Kazakhstan's union of industrialists and entrepreneurs on Monday [14 September], President Nursultan Nazarbayev described the strategy of economic reforms as right. At the same time he conceded that a number of mistakes had been made in tactical terms.

According to N. Nazarbayev, the continuing economic decline is a result of disintegration; political ambitions in relations between Commonwealth members prevail over economic rationalism. The President reiterated his intention to uphold at the upcoming CIS summit in Bishkek the idea of forming suprastate economic structures of the Common Market type.

Kazakhstan, said N. Nazarbayev, should remain in the ruble-circulation zone, even if Russia alone is left in it.

His government, the President said, is working out a 3 year program for deepening economic reforms which will ensure social security for the low-income sections of the population.

Foresees Faster Recovery, Reforms

OW1509104092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1011 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev intends to suggest including in the agenda of the Bishkek meeting a draft program of economic integration within the CIS. He believes that such a program could help restore broken economic ties and promote a speedy economic recovery and market reforms. He spoke in Alma-Ata where he was receiving credentials from the ambassadors of Iran, the U.S.A. and Canada. He was alarmed by the continuation of conflicts in Afghanistan and Tajikistan and hoped that countries of the region would bend every effort to settle them politically.

Also on Tuesday [15 September] the president held talks in private with the Commander-in-Chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Marshal Shaposhnikov.

Prime Minister, Israel's Rabin Sign Protocol

PM1109152192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 92 First Edition p 7

[Unattributed report: "Wide Range Of Cooperation"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his counterpart from Kazakhstan, Sergey Tereshchenko, who is in Jerusalem on an official visit, signed a protocol on 14 September on the creation of a joint economic commission. The working body's task will include the study and coordination of various cooperation projects between Israel and Kazakhstan.

Circles close to the Kazakhstan Government delegation have made it known that Tereshchenko presented the Israeli prime minister with a package of proposals, including more than 120 specific projects on which the two countries might cooperate on a mutually avantageous basis. They cover such areas as agricultural technology, irrigation systems, soil improvement, storage of agricultural products, the pharmaceutical industry, telecommunications, and space research. The Israeli side has shown heightened interest in these proposals in view of the positive experience of Israeli firms' activity on the territory of Kazakhstan. There is also interest in Israel in the possibility of using Kazakhstan's water desalination experience.

Kyrgyzstan

Justice Minister Signs Legal Accord With Russia

OW1409174092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian and Kyrgyz Ministers of Justice signed an agreement in Bishkek September 14 on legal assistance and legal relations on citizen, family, and criminal matters.

The Russian minister's press service reports that from now on, citizens of the two countries can count on equal legal defense of their personal, property, and non-property rights, and legal bodies will receive a judicial basis for the coordination of efforts in the struggle against crime. Specifically, now they have the right to demand the extradition of criminals hiding in Russia or Kyrgyzstan.

Geologist Blames PRC Nuclear Test for Quake

PM1409151592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Sep 92 p 4

[Report by Zaur Kadymbekov under the "Hypotheses" rubric: "Secret of Nature's Indignation"]

[Text] Baku—A destructive earthquake in Kyrgyzstan might have been caused by a nuclear explosion conducted in China in May this year.

This was the conclusion reached by a leading specialist in the sphere of earthquakes triggered by nuclear explosions—Professor Ikram Kerimov, deputy director of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences Institute of Geology.

Declassification of hitherto secret work has shown that the opinion expressed by the Azerbaijani scientist should be treated in all seriousness. Back in 1978 he was the first

to determine a link between the destructive earthquake in Gazli and the nuclear tests on the Semipalatinsk site, and he advanced a supposition about the possibility of powerful new shocks in the next few years. A repeat earthquake in Gazli in 1984 confirmed that the scientist was right.

I. Kerimov subsequently revealed a natural law governing a change in seismic murmurs before an earthquake, which was registered as a scientific discovery.

I. Kerimov said in conversation that the impact of technology on nature is now becoming so serious and is threatening the safety of mankind, that all activity in this area must be placed under strict international control.

Tajikistan

Presidential Council Assesses Acute Crisis

LD1509122992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A session of the presidential council, the first since Nabiyev resigned from his presidential post, was held in Dushanbe. It was stated at this session that the situation in the republic is critical. The government has had very little time to stabilize it. The situation will become even more acute if no action is taken.

Acting President Underscores Critical Situation

OW1409164892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1558 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first report from Tajikistan's presidential staff since Rakhman Nabiyev's resignation was issued Monday [14 September] in Dushanbe. Appearing with a report on the political and economic situation, acting President and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Akbarsho Iskandarov characterized the situation in the republic as "critical."

He said there was "minimal time" for the stabilization of the government situation, otherwise the situation would "drastically worsen."

Iskandarov indicated that at the present time, the government should concentrate its efforts to halt the armed conflict in the Kurgan-Tyube region, where armed groups of differing political orientation are in opposition.

Previews Bishkek Parliamentary Talks

LD1509111492 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] A delegation from Tajikistan led by Akbarsho Iskandarov, chairman of the Republic's Supreme Soviet, has flown out to Bishkek to take part in the conference of heads of CIS countries' parliaments.

The delegation includes a group of Tajikistan's people's deputies, Shokirov, chairman of Leninabad Oblast executive committee, and others. It was seen off at Dushanbe airport by Saidov, deputy chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, and other officials.

Before he left, Akbarsho Iskandarov answered correspondents' questions on his attitude toward the establishment of the Interparliamentary Assembly within the CIS framework. He noted that he fully shares this idea. We need effective cooperation between legislative bodies. This body should have been set up earlier.

Describing the situation in Tajikistan, the head of parliament observed that it remains quite complex. That applies primarily in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. In recent days, the situation has improved somewhat. A cease-fire agreement was reached yesterday. For the time being, it is being fulfilled. The (?headquarters) of the [word indistinct] set up by the republic's Supreme Soviet is at work. It is actively holding talks with representatives of the opposing sides. There is hope that a peaceful resolution of the conflict can be achieved. For this, the head of parliament is counting first and foremost on the good sense of the people. Nobody needs war. Everyone is tired of it, he said in conclusion.

Acting Premier on Situation, Ties With Russia

LD1409195992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1738 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Dushanbe, 14 Sep—I do not agree that President Nabiyev's resignation has plunged the republic into an acute government crisis, as his resignation essentially did not affect a single structure of state power, Dzhamshed Karimov, acting premier of Tajikistan, said in an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

Commenting on the work of a joint commission of the republic's Supreme Soviet and the Cabinet of Ministers, which has flown to Kurgan-Tyube, Dzhamshed Karimov noted that it is too early to speak about definite results. Talks have started and a cease-fire agreement has been reached, but so far there is no information on the progress of the dialogue between members of the commission and representatives of the Kulyab side.

Dzhamshed Karimov stressed that the essence of the option for a peaceful settlement which is being proposed by the commission, is to stop the bloodshed and to clear the way for foodstuffs and other goods needed by the oblast to be delivered to Kurgan Oblast. It is only possible to ensure the fulfillment of the cease-fire agreement on condition that the Kulyab side withdraws its armed formations.

There is great confidence that this plan can be implemented, as 95 percent of the population of both oblasts is in favor of stopping the bloodshed. But we see that there are forces—I cannot name them at the moment—that are interested in a continuation of the conflict in Kurgan-Tyube, Dzhamshed Karimov stressed.

Speaking about possible dates for holding the next presidential elections, Dzhamshed Karimov said that everything will depend on how soon the peaceful settlement of the Kurgan-Tyube conflict is reached. As to the existence of a person or persons in Tajikistan who may realistically aspire to the presidential post and get the support of the majority of the actual political forces in the republic, such people are emerging, Karimov claimed. These are the people, who are already actively working for the reconciliation of both sides, and the people will elect unanimously those who would be able to calm the conflicting sides. A Tajik-Russian treaty should be signed. Ties between Russia and Tajikistan are vitally important. But the text of the treaty needs amendments and finalization with consideration to realities which have taken shape in Tajikistan, Karimov pointed out.

In conclusion he noted that Tajik state radio and television has a number of documented claims against the Ostankino Television Company and Russian Television. The leader of the Television and Radio Company of Tajikistan was instructed to hold talks with the leadership of the aforementioned media as soon as possible and to draw up relevant agreements that would stipulate mutually acceptable conditions for broadcasting of television and radio programs from Moscow to the republic.

Reportage Highlights Events in Kurgan-Tyube

Leaders on Reconciliation Mission

LD1409192192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] A large group of leaders of the republic have flown to Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. The main aim of their trip is to try to normalize the situation in the conflict zone and reconcile the opposing sides. The exact location of the talks is not yet known, but the settlement of (Oktyabrskaya), the administrative center of Bakhtarskiy Rayon, or the town of Kalininabad are being mentioned as possibilities.

EKSPRESSKHRONIKA reports that the economic blockade of Kulyab Oblast, which has been going on for several days, could lead to famine. Grain reserves are being exhausted, and trucks transporting grain and flour sent from Dushanbe are stopping in Kafirninganskiy Rayon and being sent back. Fuel supplies are also critical. The price of a liter of petrol on the black market has reached 40 rubles. [passage omitted]

Government Commission Discusses Situation

LD1409223392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] A meeting was held today in the hall of the executive committee of Kurgan-Tyube city, attended by members of the government commission comprising Atakhon Latifi; Davlat Khodanazar; Kadreddin Aslanov; Nurali Kurbanov, chairman of the oblast executive committee; and Sayed Abdullo Nuri, representative of the oblast clergy. The meeting was also attended by heads of the oblast's town and rayon enterprises and organizations and representatives of the mass media. The meeting discussed the situation in the city and rayons of Kurgan-Tyube oblast. Nurali Kurbanov presented a report on the current situation, and the first tasks of the commission members.

The meeting basically discussed the normalization of the political situation in the city and the restarting of work in enterprises and institutions. Representatives of the government commission expressed their views on the subject. Among other things, it was proposed that all measures should be taken to enable the people to go to work, and for shops, hospitals, transport, communications and other services to resume working.

Representatives of people's councils spoke on the aims and objectives of the popular forces and stated that they would above all ensure the security of the city and the surrounding rayons, and that all measures will be adopted to stabilize the situation in the oblast. Similarly, a press center began operation within the oblast executive committee, headed by Atakhon Latifi. Beginning Wednesday, special pamphlets will be published reflecting the daily situation in the oblast.

On the same day, in accordance with a decision of the executive committee—as reported by Akbarov, acting chairman of the executive committee of the soviet of people's deputies of Kurgan-Tyube city—a day of work was declared in the city. Nineteen industrial enterprises and eight car-servicing garages started work. Today, at 1000, [word indistinct] workers reported for work. According to Akbarov, all labor collectives in the center of the oblast will resume normal work within two days. At present, the city executive committee is taking every measure to normalize the situation in Kurgan-Tyube.

Opposing Sides Expected To Meet

LD1509101192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Dushanbe September 15 TASS—Conflicting sides in Tajikistan and members of the special commission led by the Tajik parliament spokesman Manakbar Iskandarov are expected to meet for talks in Kurgan-Tyube today, ITAR-TASS has learned.

It is believed that the aggravation of the situation in Kulyaba region, where clashes involving killing or injuring several people and hostage-taking occurred last night, can affect the negotiations.

Russian Troops Said Supplying Arms

LD1409162592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Khodzhayev, deputy head of the Kurgan-Tyube Oblast administration, notes that in the past two weeks up to 3,000 people have been killed as a result of armed clashes, and 100,000 have been forced to leave their homes. Khodzhayev also asserts that he does not know the statistics for the ethnic origins of the people who were killed. He accuses the Russian Army detachment stationed in Kurgan-Tyube, stating that the servicemen supply arms to the supporters of the Tajik president. The commander of the detachment vehemently denies such accusations, calling them blatant lies.

Situation Normalizing

LD1409141192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1345 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva, Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Dushanbe September 14 TASS—The situation in south Tajikistan is gradually coming back to normal. A large number of enterprises in Kurgan-Tyube has resumed operation, ITAR-TASS learnt from sources close to the Tajik Government. On the whole, the situation in the city is normal, although food delivery is still dificult.

The Tajik news agency KHOVAR reports from Kurgan-Tyube that the opposing sides announced the ceasefire in the region from eight p.m. on Sunday 13 September]. The ceasefire has been observed throughout last night, also in "hot spots" in the first and second sections of the Kuybyshev technical training school and state farm and Sabzovat state farm of the Bokhtar district.

These favourable developments are associated with the activity of the joint commission of the Tajik Parliament and Cabinet of Ministers which flew to Kurgan-Tyube on Sunday. A number of participants in the commission, including parliamentary speaker Akbarsho Iskandarov, returned to Dushanbe. The members of the commission who remained in Kurgan-Tyube continue to conduct negotiations with the opposing groups.

The commission helped create in Kurgan-Tyube the joint editorital board of a newspaper which will appear in Tajik, Russian and Uzbek. The newspaper which is called upon to fill the information vacuum will be headed by Otakhon Latifi, former chairman of Tajikistan's Union of Journalists, who arrived in Kurgan-Tyube as a member of the commission, and by local journalist Nurkhan Niyazov.

On Monday morning, Tajik leaders held a conference which, according to unofficial sources discussed also the policy of the supreme organs of power in the period of transition, until the presidential elections are held. There are suggestions to form a state council. But, according to the same sources, this idea has no support of the supreme legislative and executive bodies. A large part of their leadership is for the preservation of the presently operating constitutional structure of the republic.

Update on Clashes

LD1409154992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The new leader of Tajikistan will be taking part in the CIS heads of parliament conference. Akbarsho Iskandarov flew from Dushanbe to Bishkek today. He would probably not have left the republic if the situation there had not improved. Here is the very latest news from there:

[Correspondent A. Khodzhayev] The situation in Kurgan-Tyube has somewhat improved over the past day. It even seems possible that bus services will be resumed between the town and Dushanbe. Although exchanges of fire continue in the neighboring Bakhtarskiy Rayon, freight traffic has resumed for the people of Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. The lull did not last for long. According to the press center set up at Tajikistan radio, fighting has started again between the protagonists at the Kuybyshev state farm and technical college in Bakhtarskiy Rayon, and also in Vakhshskiy Rayon. There have also been cases of arson over the past 24 hours.

A special commission headed by Akbarsho Iskandarov, chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, has been established and tasked with bringing the situation back to normal.

In Dushanbe, the Rossiya TV channel remains off the air, as is the Mayak radio station. Because of this, Khaji Akbar Turadzhonzoda, the leader of Tajikistan's Muslims and a people's deputy, has spoken out against the closure of sources of information. There should be no news famine in the republic, but correspondents who arrive should be objective and immerse themselves more deeply in the life of our people.

[Announcer] Armed clashes with infiltrators are continuing on the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border. The last one took place on 13 September with six persons trying to cross into Tajikistan and carrying a large amount of ammunition.

Situation Deteriorates Overnight

LD1509081492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0725 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 15 Sep—The situation in Tajikistan's Kulyab Oblast has worsened considerably. According to data received from the operations section of the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs, unidentified armed groups last night forced their way from Kofornikhonskiy Rayon [15 kilometers from Dushanbe] over the Shar-Shar pass and onto the territory of Kulyab Oblast.

Following an armed clash, according to the preliminary data, eight people from the Kulyab guard of the president's supporters were killed and two people were wounded. Five militiamen from Dangerinskiy Rayon's Internal Affairs Directorate were taken hostage.

Reinforcements for the Kulyab Oblast Internal Affairs Directorate have been sent to the conflict zone.

In other regions, including Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, where a cease-fire was announced on 13 September, the situation is relatively calm.

Cease-Fire Said Holding

OW1509142492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1354 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Kurgan-Tyube (south of Tajikistan) the groupings of various political bias "observe the cease-fire agreement, although it is early yet to talk about any normalization of the situation", Colonel Usmon Yerov, the chairman of the regional national security committee, told IF [INTERFAX].

He said that in Kurgan-Tyube the situation was getting back to normal and that the local industrial enterprises, shops and schools have been opened.

Yerov noted that the special parliamentary commission for peaceful settlement has not achieved any tangible results and that confrontation between the groupings of various political bias continues. But there are neither shots, nor fighting to date.

On Tuesday [15 September] evening, the commission will have another round of talks with the field commanders of the conflicting armed formations to seek mutually-acceptable ways of ending combat operations.

150,000 Ethnic Russian Expected to Evacuate

LD1509102592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] It has become known from government sources that approximately 150,000 of the Russian-speaking population will be evacuated from Tajikistan in the near future. The Orenburg Oblast is expected to receive refugees approximately 3,000 refugees. It was chosen primarily because of its geographical position. Competent sources also say that Udmurtia and the Sverdlovsk Oblast are also expected to receive refugees.

Armenia

Foreign Minister Addresses Council of Europe

NC1109190092 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan, 11 Sep (ARMENPRES)—Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian addressed the meeting of the Council of Europe foreign ministers on 10 September in Istanbul and discussed cooperation among Council of Europe and CIS countries.

In his speech, Hovannisian touched upon Armenian-Turkish relations and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The Armenian foreign minister mentioned Armenia's bid for Council of Europe membership which Turkey is trying to prevent. The Council of Ministers' secretary general said that there could be no serious cooperation between the Council and Armenia as long as the Karabakh conflict continues.

Hovannisian said that type of approach was wrong and emphasized that Armenia has repeatedly said that it has no territorial demands on Azerbaijan and that the Karabakh conflict is not an Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict but a demand by the Armenian people of Karabakh for national self-determination, a right legitimized by the Helsinki Final Act.

Hovannisian criticized the Turkish authorities for creating obstacles to the dispatch of humanitarian assistance to Armenia via Turkey, for not taking practical measures to establish bilateral diplomatic relations, and for not opening border communications.

He touched on some aspects of Armenian-Turkish relations, noting in particular that until the 1915 genocide, Istanbul played an important role in the development of western Armenian culture. He pointed out that Dolmabahce Palace, where a luncheon was given in honor of the conferees on 10 September, was built by Armenian architect Karabet Balyan.

The Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople organized a reception in honor of the Armenian foreign minister with representatives of the Armenian community.

Hovannisian also met the foreign ministers of a number of countries, including Greece, Malta, Bulgaria, and the Netherlands.

Hovannisian also held a news conference the same day.

Criticizes Turkey on Human Rights

LD1109162892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1520 GMT 11 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara September 11 TASS—Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian sharply criticized Turkey, speaking on Thursday [10 September] at an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Europe's Council of Ministers in Istanbul, the Turkish MILLIYET newspaper reports today.

"Although Turkey now chairs the Council of Europe, it grossly violates human rights. The fact of Kurds' suppression is mentioned in decisions of the European parliament," said the Armenian official.

The minister said he disagrees with the allegation Turkey is a model state for Central Asian republics. One cannot say Turkey is the model from the point of view of European values and culture, he noted.

In Hovannisian's words, Ankara hampers the Armenian joining of the Council of Europe, but cannot prevent it. He also accused Turkey of arms deliveries to Azerbaijan.

In his turn, the Turkish representative to the Council of Europe accused Hovannisian of lie and distortion of the reality, says the newspaper.

NKR Envoy on CSCE's 'Failed' Cease-Fire Mission

NC1409175792 Yerevan SNARK in English 0919 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan, September 14 (SNARK)—Manvel Sargsyan, permanent representative of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh [NKR] to conference on the Karabakh problem, has announced the SNARK reporter that "CSCE mission on peaceful regulation of the Karabakh problem has been failed". Sargsyan has informed the SNARK reporter on the results of the Rome conference.

Sargsyan has accused the representatives of Azerbaijan with the disruption of the intermediary mission of the Minsk group of the CSCE. The representatives of Azerbaijan refused accepting the conditions of ceasing the fire in Nagorno-Karabakh. He has underlined that the non-constructive position of Azerbaijan made all the delegations at the Rome meeting feel sorrow. The meeting participants showed the inconsistency in defining the status of the republic of Nagorno-Karabakh at the negotiations. Besides even the "vague" status of the elected representatives of Karabakh didn't suit the members of the Minsk group. It is clear that the further work of the intermediaries is out of sense in such conditions. In this case the only way out is to look for the other mechanisms of the peaceful solution of the Karabakh problem.

Decree Appoints Manukyan Acting Defense Minister

NC1409200692 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] As is already known, Vazgen Mikayelovich Manukyan has been appointed acting state minister of defense matters by a decree issued by the Armenian president.

The Armenian Council of Ministers Press Service reported that President Levon Ter-Petrosyan introduced

Vazgen Manukyan to the Council of Ministers on 14 September. Stressing the need for coordinating the work for the defense sector and a new state minister for that purpose, the president enumerated the areas that will come under the jurisdiction of the state minister. These are: The Defense Ministry with all its structures, the State Directorate for Special Programs, the State Directorate for Extraordinary Situations, and the Defense Industry Council.

President's National Security Adviser To Retire

NC1409175692 Yerevan SNARK in English 0914 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan, September 14, (SNARK)—Sunday [13 September] evening issue of the Armenian TV broadcast "Seventh Day" informed on the intentions of Ashot Manucharyan, the counselor on national security, to retire. The Press-Centre of the Armenian President has confirmed the SNARK reporter the fact of the retirement and has added that the retirement of the counselor of national security is not the result of the existing divergence of opinions with the Armenian president. Ashot Manucharyan has expressed his retirement by his tiredness.

Georgia

Abkhaz Troops Launch Attack on Gagra

LD1509091792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kashoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi, 15 Sep—Last night, Abkhaz units and militants from the Confederation of Mountain People of the Caucasus launched an attack on Georgian positions along the confrontation line near the town of Gagra.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned at the press center of the coordinating headquarters in Gagra that for 30 minutes, the enemy tried to spread the attack, but was met with retaliatory fire from Georgian Government troops, who rebuffed the attack. Through the night, there were irregular exchanges of fire between the confronting sides near Gagra.

According to representatives of the Georgian military command, the attack on Gagra during the night of 14 September was planned ahead by the enemy. According to Dzhoni Latariya, head of the committee for stabilization in Abkhazia, this was demonstrated by the fact that on the eve of the attack, forces started concentrating in the village of Bzyb, controlled by armed formations from Abkhazia and the Confederation of the Mountain People of the Caucasus. There were no casualties on the Georgian side. Georgian sources have no information on the number of killed and wounded on the enemy side.

[Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 0800 GMT on 15 September, during the "Novosti" newscast, adds: "According to information from 'Ekspress-Khronika,' Tengiz Sigua and Tengiz Kitovani, members of the Presidium of the Georgian State Council, are flying to Moscow today for a meeting with the leadership of the Russian Federation on the issue of settling the situation in Abkhazia. The situation there has sharply deteriorated." The report adds: "According to a report by Georgian Television, representatives of the Confederation of Highland Peoples have stated that demands are being made in Checheniya for an outlet to the sea."]

Gagra Locals Organize to Fight Off 'Mercenaries'

LD1409224392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The locals of Gagra have decided to form their own armed group to resist attacks by mountain mercenaries. Joining the ranks of the irregulars, according to some reports, will be not only Georgians but also Russians, Estonians and even Koreans living in the town.

Over 500 Abkhazians Taken Hostage in Sukhumi

OW1409183392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1804 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Vladislav Ardzinba announced that "the leadership of the Georgian State Council is using any reason for resuming military activities, although it is trying to lay the blame for this on us."

Appearing Monday [14 September] at a meeting with journalists, Ardzinba reported that Georgian officials gave Russian parliamentary deputies in Abkhazia information on violations of the cease-fire agreement by Abkhazia, "although not one of the details was confirmed."

Deputy of the Abkhazian Parliament Stanislav Lakoba declared in an interview with an INTERFAX correspondent that at present Georgian formations are taking Abkhazians hostage in Sukhumi. He said over 500 people, including elderly, women, and children, were seized today.

According to reports from the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet's press center in Gudauta, one person has been killed and 12 have been injured due to firing on Abkhazian positions near the city of Gagra.

Shevardnadze: 'Ideological War' Against Tbilisi

OW1409161592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1558 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Georgian Supreme Soviet Eduard Shevardnadze announced that "a true ideological war has been waged" against Georgia. He noted that this was especially true in Russia.

In an interview on Georgian radio Monday [14 September] Shevardnadze did not rule out that further attacks on Georgia may follow at the upcoming session of the Russian Parliament. In connection with this he feels that the UN mission to Abkhazia's arrival in Tbilisi September 14 is especially important for Georgia: "The UN should be given the real picture of the developments in Abkhazia."

Discussing the "continually strained" domestic policy situation in Georgia, Shevardnadze pointed out that the activities of territorial groups represent "a conspiracy against the republic, centered in Groznyy." The conspiracy's aim, according to Shevardnadze, is to "begin large-scale aggression against Georgia." However, Shevardnadze claimed these plans had been undermined: first, by the repositioning of Georgian troops in Abkhazia, and second, "by Russia's active endeavors."

On the issue of establishing a single Caucasian house, Shevardnadze, noting its grateful nature, stressed that Caucasia is not ready for such unity today.

[In a related report carried in the same facsimile transmission at 1558 GMT on 14 September, INTERFAX reports campaign volunteers have presented 41,142 signatures to the Central Election Committee in support of Shevardnadze. INTERFAX adds: "Five thousand signatures are required for registering in the elections for Chairman of Parliament. The Election Committee should officially register Shevardnadze once it has counted the signatures, according to the news agency SARKE. He is the only candidate for Georgia's Parliament Chairman. Elections will take place October 11, concurrently with Parliamentary elections."]

Shevardnadze Warns of Chaos Without Elections

LD1409205392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2044 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kasoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi September 15 TASS—"If parliamentary elections, scheduled for October 11, are not held, we shall face either chaos or death, or military dictatorship which suits neither myself nor my colleagues," Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze said on Monday [14 September] at a joint meeting of the Georgian State Council with representatives of law enforcement bodies, security services and the Defence Ministry.

The chairman of the Georgian State Council strongly criticised the discipline in the Georgian Army and pointed out that he was aware of numerous incidents when young people deserted the army.

Shevardnadze also described the actions of leaders of the Georgian Army and the Interior Ministry, responsible for maintenance of order in western Georgia, as "inefficient and ill-considered."

Officials Ioseliani, Kavsadze on Ethnic Issues

MK1209111992 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 37, 13 Sep 92 (Signed to press 8 Sep 92) p 9

[Interview with State Council Deputy Chairman Jaba Ioseliani and Vice Premier Alexander Kavsadze by Nelli Biulzedginidze, doctor of philology and staffer on the newspaper LA SUISSE (Switzerland); place, date not given: "Georgia: A Question of Honor for the State Council"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] [Biulzedginidze] What is your forecast for the upcoming parliamentary elections?

[Ioseliani] There will be no presidential authority in our country, we will have a parliamentary republic. However, if parliament believes that Georgia needs a president, then that's how it will be.... But it may be that they will want a monarchy.

As for the elections, I believe that the election law is not quite democratic: We have made a lot of concessions to the political parties, and they will be represented by 150 deputies, while the independent deputies will only have 84 seats.

[Biulzedginidze] How will the autonomies—Abkhazia, Ajaria, and South Ossetia—be represented in parliament?

[Ioseliani] By regions, like Kakhetia, for instance. Each region will have one deputy—whether he turns out to be Ossetian, Georgian, or Abkhazian will be up to the voters.

[Biulzedginidze] What is your reaction to the evaluations of Shevardnadze's government encountered of late on the pages of the Russian and West European press, for example: "In the last four months Shevardnadze has brought the country to war and chaos, and he has established a dictatorship." (NEUE ZURICHER ZEITUNG)?

[Ioseliani] It is all ridiculous. How can they talk about dictatorship when the fact is that before Shevardnadze's accession to power there was a Military Council in Georgia and after his arrival a State Council; and that 44 parties are represented in this State Council? As for events around the television center 24 June, how can this have been staged (as the newspapers wrote) when our man was killed there, and people were wounded, and my son was almost killed? And why would Shevardnadze postpone the election date when he knows that 80 percent of the population will vote for him?

[Kavsadze] The passage you have just cited is slander, everything has been twisted around here. It is the vocabulary of Gamsakhurdia. We liberated all political prisoners. And we are supposed to be a junta?

[Biulzedginidze] Do you think that the bloody conflicts which Georgia is experiencing bear a civil or ethnic nature?

[Ioseliani] The fact is that the authorities in Abkhazia and its pretensions are anachronistic. They want to preserve the nomenklatura, the bureaucracy, and they do not want to hand over the land to the people. And this is the crux of the conflict, yet it is construed as national, ethnic.

[Kavsadze] Everything here is interwoven. It would be incorrect to talk only about the ethnic nature of the conflict or only about its civil or political complexion. In the 70 years of Soviet power everything became mixed up. And before that we lived under czarist Russia, and everybody here knows what kind of policy that regime conducted in Abkhazia: Abkhazians were expelled from there.

[Biulzedginidze] Do the Abkhaz Georgians support the State Council?

[Ioseliani] Now almost completely, there is just a small percentage which is opposed.

[Biulzedginidze] And the Greeks, Armenians, and Russians?

[Ioseliani] Some do, some don't. On some issues they support us, on some issues they oppose us. There are 100,000 Abkhazians, 240,000 Georgians, and a fraction fewer people of other nationalities living on Abkhaz territory. So how can 28 percent of the votes in parliament be given to the Abkhazians, 26 percent to the Georgians, and 11 percent to the rest....? It's nothing short of apartheid!

[Biulzedginidze] Do you recognize the right of Abkhazia, Ajaria, or South Ossetia to independence? If not—why, and which forms of autonomy do you consider acceptable?

[Ioseliani] I am convinced that not a single Ajarian and not a single Abkhazian wants to secede from Georgia. I am thinking, of course, of sensible people. Personally, I am against secession. You know, what will take place is the disintegration of an already small state, and I will, of course, fight against this.

Everything taking place in Abkhazia is an anachronism. Once there is private ownership, once privatization takes place, and once the market is free, then all these national questions will move into the background. Nobody will be interested any more in who is appointed to the local council because the local council will not intervene in economic life. This issue will lose its urgency.

[Biulzedginidze] And which forms of authority do you....

[Ioseliani] In the initial phase, those which exist at the moment.

[Biulzedginidze] That is, those which existed under Soviet power?

[Ioseliani] Not quite the same, but the same general idea.

[Kavsadze] With regard to forms of autonomy or forms of government, and in particular in Abkhazia, I believe that the Abkhaz people have no other homeland—unlike the Armenians, Greeks, Azerbaijanis, Russians, and other peoples of Georgia. Abkhazians must live in their homeland, and we should do everything to ensure that their rights are defended. This is a question of honor for our state.

[Biulzedginidze] And South Ossetia?

[Kavsadze] South Ossetia does not exist as such. There is Ossetia... North Ossetia. There are Ossetians. Some 66,000 Ossetians live on this territory. Throughout Georgia they number 166,000. So why give autonomy to the Ossetians living in Tskhinvali and not to those who live in Kakhetia? Why then not give autonomy to the Armenians? There are 300,000 of them in our country! Why not give autonomy to Azerbaijanis, who number around 500,000? Or to the Greeks, of whom there are around 150,000? As for South Ossetia, I believe that it should have cultural autonomy. Abkhazia is another matter. We must find structures: We must think about how to divide the functions of central and local authority, and we have to take additional measures to solve the Abkhaz problem.

Transcript of Abkhazia Settlement Accord 3 Sep

PM1109144592 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Sep 92 p 3

[Stenographic record of signing of agreement on Georgian-Abkhaz settlement by B.N. Yeltsin, E.A. Shevardnadze, V.G. Ardzinba, and others in Moscow on 3 September, under the "Pages from Stenographic Record" rubric: "How They Undid the Abkhaz Knot: 'Bring in Trays of Champagne!'"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] As is known, the final document on ending the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict was signed in Moscow 3 September. The talks had been long and hard—this is borne out by the pages of the stenographic record of the meeting, which we publish today.

[Yeltsin] Esteemed gentlemen! There are no ladies at the roundtable, but there are in the hall, and so: Esteemed ladies!

The definitive final document of today's Moscow meeting has been drawn up. Two fundamental amendments have been made, which were advanced during the discussion... Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze and I are signing this final document. Here are the names of all at the roundtable, and it is written that

they "agreed." It is a matter of conscience and political intuition for each of you how to act. I have it all. Eduard Amvrosiyevich, do we agree to sign?

[Shevardnadze] Yes.

[Yeltsin] I am signing.

[Ardzinba] Boris Nikolayevich, just a minute, maybe there is no need to hurry. Just hear us out. As far as I understand it, the conflict is happening in Abkhazia. Since the fate of Abkhazia is being decided, it is probably necessary at least elementarily to listen to our opinion too.

[Yeltsin] You have expressed it. More than once. We have listened to you more than once too.

[Ardzinba] Boris Nikolayevich, your appeal to the leadership of Georgia and Abkhazia speaks of a troop withdrawal without delay and of the cessation of combat operations.

[Yeltsin] This is borne in mind in this document as well.

[Ardzinba] This question is not resolved in this document.

[Yeltsin] But it is resolved. Everyone interprets it the way he wants to. As president, I interpret it in precisely this way, and I guarantee Russia's position so that on no account will Abkhazia's interests be infringed after our signing of the document today. Simultaneously, so that questions are resolved between you politically within Georgia-Abkhazia, and at the same time Russia will ensure northern defense so as on no account to promote any exacerbation of the situation in Abkhazia. We advocate the defense both of the peoples of Abkhazia and of the peoples of all of Georgia entirely, including Abkhazia. I believe that whoever does not sign will struggle very seriously with his conscience for long years, however he has acted: "for" his people or "against" his people. There will be no more debate today. Whoever does not want to sign, this is a personal matter for each person. I would ask for this document to be given at once to Eduard Amvrosiyevich for signing.

[Ardzinba] I believe that this is a policy of strong-arm pressure, which takes absolutely no account of Abkhazia's interests... Boris Nikolayevich, I am amazed, for this is an important document, and we could have continued discussing it in order... There are other aspects here which ought to be taken into account.

[Yeltsin] The president of the Russian Federation cannot afford to seek out every line—where, what, and how. We are resolving general fundamental questions. But a very fundamental question is that of a cease-fire, the withdrawal of armed formations—legal, illegal, etc.—guarding the railroad, guarding social projects, guarding citizens, defending their rights and interests. We have reflected everything in this document, it is not from a position of strength... With this I terminate the discussion and ask you not to speak anymore. I ask those who agree to sign. Have you signed, Eduard Amvrosiyevich? Good. We must sign two documents. One document?

[Shevardnadze] I have signed.

[Ardzinba] At the risk of angering you, Boris Nikolayevich, I would ask you to notice that this document does not even raise the question of constitutional organs of power, which have been abolished as a result of sending in the troops, i.e. we are virtually recognizing what has been done in Abkhazia...

[Yeltsin] No, we are not interfering in internal affairs. This is a matter for Georgia and yourselves. Incidentally, there is an article there concerning this question. Please show it to him, Andrey Vladimirovich [no surname given; possibly Foreign Minister Kozyrev], and read it...

[Ardzinba] ...You must give me 30 minutes to think it over. After all, it is an important document, Boris Nikolayevich. I realize that we are small, and it is possible somehow to disregard us. I believe that we, of course, do not make policy. I understand this. But, all the same, genocide is being perpetrated against the people there. It is most veritable genocide. Under these conditions, you understand, it really is unfair to not even hear us out and to make us sign the document. I say before God that it is unfair....

[Yeltsin] I believe that you are wrong. We have listened to you quite attentively and at least six or seven times, esteemed Vladislav Grigoryevich. I believe that you should be grateful that we have fulfilled such a mission and will, all the same, defend you, just the same. The army, humanitarian aid, food, deliveries, etc... You understand. I have never considered or divided republics into small, large, medium, etc. No. This imperial stand, so to speak, has ended. We did not gather in the Union, we have gathered voluntarily and come here—representatives of independent states—and we are discussing these questions. But fruitless debates happen, which overstep some mark. Then the person in the chair is always given the right—at the United Nations, say, or say I was addressing the U.S. Congress—to bang his fist: Bang, that is all, and it ends. This is not considered dictatorship. It is not considered an infringement of democracy. It is not considered a humiliation of small peoples. It is considered order. I observe order....

[Ardzinba] Boris Nikolayevich, the chief purpose of this document is not so much to withdraw the troops that have been sent onto the territory of Abkhazia but to disband the volunteers who have come to Abkhazia to help them against genocide. This is the result, and it is perfectly clear from the text....

[Yeltsin] Naderashvili has signed. Well, 95 percent have signed. The two main signatures are there. My congratulations. (Applause)

I ask the technical service, despite certain doubts on Vladislav Grigoryevich's part—nonetheless, those who are sure that a serious document has been adopted today,

which will make a breakthrough, as such documents have done in Ossetia and the Dniester Region—to bring in the trays of champagne. I earnestly beg you, Vladislav Grigoryevich, I am sure that, after signing this treaty, we will find a common language and will remove the doubts that arise in the process of preparing any document, particularly such a crucial one. I do not know about other members of the delegation, but I beg you.

[A.M. Mirzabekov] We appeal to you, our brothers from Abkhazia. This is an historic moment, and there will not be another such opportunity. Maybe some interests have been infringed, but I am obliged to sign this document. Simply obliged. It is possible to resolve all the remaining questions between the Republic of Georgia and Abkhazia. But now it is necessary to end the war and put an end to the possibility of war throughout the Caucasus. You simply do not have the right not to sign this document. We beg you, sign....

[A.Kh. Galazov] Vladislav Grigoryevich and esteemed Abkhazian brothers! We representatives of North Ossetia also have doubts, but in Sochi we signed the agreement which has led to peace in South Ossetia. It is the first step, and a significant step. I believe that this step, however hard it may be for you and whatever doubts you may be prey to, must be taken....

[V.N. Savelyev] I would like to say, Vladislav Grigoryevich, that if you do not sign this document, it will be hard for us to help you in the future. You are assuming a tremendous responsibility and cutting yourself off from us all.

[V.I. Khubiyev] Vladislav Grigoryevich and brothers from Abkhazia. Boris Nikolayevich, the nationwide president of Russia, today, if you like—I did not want to say this word, but it is even humiliating—has shown great paternal concern from the very start in his attitude to resolving this problem. You will understand that it is very difficult for us today to explain to the mothers and wives of those men who are dying in the North Caucasus. Very difficult....

[N.A. Dzharimov] Vladislav Grigoryevich, I am from Abkhazia. Everyone knows... the Abkhaz cultural and ethnic community. I was in great doubt over whether to sign this document. You may have noticed that it was brought to me twice. But I decided to sign it. To sign it in order to arrive at a peaceful settlement of this conflict....

[Yeltsin] I wish to say just two words. Maybe such a thing is, I would say, appeasing. Maybe let us do it like this. Let us consider the document for a month, meet in a month's time, and say: We were right or we made a mistake, honestly, straight to each other's faces. If we made some mistake, let us rectify it.

[Ardzinba] Can we not record this in the document?

[Yeltsin] Let us sign below. Where is the document? Let us sign. In your Caucasus a man's word is, in general, his word, but in our Rus too, by the way, there are men.

[Ardzinba] May I put to you just one last request? This really is a historic moment, and the signing is an extremely important event. I would ask this by way of a special kindness, if this is possible, to be given 30 minutes to consult the delegation once again, to return to this hall, and to say....

[Yeltsin] We are meeting with this composition, and we will sum up the results. The most important thing is that we will be monitored all the time, as it were: as to whether we have gone the right way or made a mistake. Do you understand? That is, it is not simply a political move, today's document—no, it is a serious document, and we believe in it, but nonetheless let us check it. Proceeding from this premise, maybe 30 minutes is a bit too long for you, and maybe you will reach agreement in 15 minutes?

[Ardzinba] It is possible even in 15 minutes, in as much time as you will need for a cup of coffee.

[Yeltsin] It will take 15 minutes to pour out the champagne.

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[Yeltsin] So, the final session. Vladislav Grigoryevich, if you please.

[Ardzinba] First, all the members of the delegation have earnestly asked me to thank you sincerely, Boris Nikolayevich, for the tremendous thing you have done to resolve this conflict and to thank all the leaders of the republics within the Russian Federation and of krays and oblasts, who have helped us and contributed to the resolution of this question in this situation.

We will sign the document. There are just two points that I wanted to make—one by way of a question, the other by way of a suggestion. I would ask you to take this into account. First, here in this article, with regard to the first article, it concerns an agreed level. Could this agreed level not be determined now, so that it is known? This is the first point.

Second, on Article 11 I will record my dissenting opinion, because I cannot, from either a moral or a legal viewpoint, condemn the people who have come to Abkhazia to sacrifice their life for the sake of the Abkhaz people, for the sake of all the peoples of Abkhazia, therefore such a formula...—then either Article 11 must be removed or else, if you will allow me, I will simply record my dissenting opinion with regard to Article 11, having signed the document. I hope this will not be a violation. The most important thing is that I am signing the document. But I would like to put this request both with regard to the agreed level and with regard to Article 11.

[Yeltsin] I wish to voice satisfaction at your position. I understand your difficulties, Vladislav Grigoryevich, and

the members of your delegation. Of course, this is not easy, because you are dealing with the people of Abkhazia, the multinational people of Abkhazia, where there are Abkhazians, Georgians, Russians, and others. Things are very complex for you. But I would like to say to you very firmly on behalf of all those seated in this semicircle that we will support you. You can rely on this. We have reached agreement with Eduard Amvrosiyevich.

First, I have already told Yegor Timurovich Gaydar that an economic agreement between Georgia and Russia is to be signed without delay (10 days). We have ended up with such a breach and such a failure that, of course, Georgia has suffered as a result....

Second, we have agreed to sign a full-scale treaty between Georgia and Russia. We are linked by such a thousand-year history that we cannot get away from each other. We do not have the right. We will be traitors to our own peoples. Therefore we will now make very intensive preparations. If, Eduard Amvrosiyevich, we were ready in one month's time, let us assume, to sign the treaty... When are your elections?

[Shevardnadze] On 11 October.

[Yeltsin] Then the Russian president agrees to come to Tbilisi toward the end of October and to sign such a treaty. Not in Moscow.

[Shevardnadze] Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I should emphasize yet again that we do not have imperial ambitions and that we respect every republic and every state. I will come, and I am sure that I will not have been removed by then—come to Tbilisi, a fine city which I know well and which I have visited more than once, including with Eduard Amvrosiyevich. It is a really fine city, if not a fairy-tale city then at least a beauty, and sign our treaty there.

[Shevardnadze] Thank you....

Shevardnadze, German Banker View Financial Ties

OW1309130592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1217 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [12 September] the chairman of Georgia's State Council Eduard Shevardnadze received Georg Krupp, president of the Deutsche Bank, to discuss the ways to establish financial and economic cooperation between Georgia and Germany.

As G. Krupp said, Georgia has every precondition for establishing and developing such cooperation with the West, and his bank wants to give Georgia comprehensive aid. The Deutsche Bank intends to open its branch in Tbilisi in the near future as an example to other countries, he said. According to him, the West believes in E. Shevardnadze who is a guarantor for the Western world, in particular for Germany, and who played an invaluable role in German unification and in the West in general.

Estonia

Delegation Ends Sixth Round of Talks With Russia

Modest Results Please Ministry Official

LD1209163792 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] The results of the sixth round of talks between the Estonian and Russian Government delegations, which ended today at Nakhabino near Moscow, turned out a bit more modestly than we had expected. This is what Ago Tiimann, the Foreign Ministry's adviser, said to the Baltic News Service.

According to Ago Tiimann, only two of the four drafted agreements were initialed, on humanitarian-legal issues and one of the two in the economic sphere. The two economic agreements that had been drawn up for today were not initialed, as the Russian delegation wanted to hold additional consultations with its government.

Ago Tiimann stated that the Estonian delegation is satisfied with the sixth round of the talks. He added that, even though there was no breakthrough, a big step forward was taken. A stage has been reached where real talks are taking place, not just familiarization with each other's positions.

The Foreign Ministry's adviser added that progress was made also in the working groups dealing with military and border issues.

Disagreements Remain on Citizenship

OW1209142292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1355 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Estonian politicians will have to try and work out a single position on the citizenship issue, since Russia continues putting pressure on us," the general director of the Estonian Migration Department, Andres Kollist, said in an interview with BF [BALTFAX] commenting on the discussion on the citizenship problem during the sixth round of Estonian-Russian negotiations held at Nakhabino near Moscow on September 9-10.

According to Kollist, Russia sticks to the principle that anyone who moved to Estonia before January 12, 1991, the day the treaty on the fundamentals of relations between Estonia and Russia was signed, should be entitled to the citizenship of either state. The Russians also believe the granting of citizenship should be just a matter of registration, and that no difficult conditions should be made for it. "For example, they have no objection to the oath of loyalty to the Estonian Republic but reject the idea that one should pass an Estonian language examination to be granted Estonian citizenship," Kollist said.

The Estonian delegation said at the negotiations that naturalization would continue to be the procedure for receiving Estonian citizenship, though "some liberalization of the regulations for naturalization could be considered." Kollist does not think, however, that, at its forthcoming session opening on September 22, the Russian parliament will decide to introduce economic sanctions against Estonia since discussion on the citizenship issue is still going on.

On July 17 the Russian parliament passed a resolution on infringements on human rights in Estonia instructing the government to consider "the introduction of temporary economic sanctions against the Estonian Republic in case its authorities continue discrimination against ethnic Russians."

Government Repeats Demand for Russian Withdrawal

OW1409172292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1554 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian State Minister Uno Veering told BALTFAX that Estonia continues to demand the withdrawal from the Republic of Russian offensive forces and troops stationed in Tallinn by the end of this year. All remaining units, he said, must be evacuated in 1993.

According to the Minister of State, Estonian specialists are currently conducting an expert review of the withdrawal plan for 1993 presented by Russia last week. The plan was proposed during the September 9-10 round of negotiations between the countries, at which the Russian delegation proposed their troops be fully withdrawn in 1994. The plan was neither discussed nor agreed upon during negotiations, said Veering.

Seminar of Fenno-Ugric Peoples Opens

LD1509144292 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Representatives of the Fenno-Ugric peoples accused Russia today of human rights violations, and of a lack of education in their mother tongues in particular, at a news conference which took place today in Tallinn. Leaders of the Setu, Mari, Mordva, Udmurt, and Ingrian national movements are taking part in the two-day seminar "The Fenno-Ugrians and Russia", which began in Tallinn today. The conference was organized by the Jaan Tonisson Institute.

Representatives of the Fenno-Ugric peoples will discuss creating closer opportunities for cooperation, as well as their ethnic problems. It is planned to adopt a joint memorandum, which in the opinion of conference participants should not contain any so-called specific demands.

Representatives of the Fenno-Ugric peoples stated that they do not see complete independence as their final aim but they hope for more sovereignty than previously. Representatives of the Fenno-Ugric peoples criticized the Democratic Russia movement. They found that the

ethnic policy of the movement does not differ at all from the former communist policy, which was directed against minorities.

Government Dissatisfied With Baltic Cooperation

OW1109132492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1013 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonia is dissatisfied with the current state of cooperation between the Baltic states," the Estonian Foreign Ministry's Counsellor Ago Tiiman told BF [BALTFAX] on the eve of the talks between the prime ministers and governmental delegations of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, scheduled for Friday [11 September].

Ago Tiiman also said that Estonia will make "specific proposals" on the introduction of a "single and efficient customs and visa regime, on the mutual settlement of accounts, and on the restructuring of economic cooperation between the three states".

In addition to the Baltic states' three coordinating bodies—the Baltic Council which consists of the chairmen of the parliaments, the Baltic Cooperation Council (BCC) which brings together the Baltic prime ministers, and the BCC's Joint Commission—Tiiman proposed setting up joint commissions and bodies that would be in charge of specific aspects of relations between the three states.

Foreign Ministry Urges Closer Baltic Ties

LD1209164492 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] Ago Tiimann, the Foreign Ministry's adviser, has told the Baltic News Service that Estonia is not satisfied with the present cooperation between the Baltic states. According to Ago Tiimann, the Estonian side plans to present very specific proposals to Latvia and Lithuania at the 11 September meeting of the Baltic states' government leaders, so as to turn the concluded agreements on a joint visa and customs space and on the reorganization of economic structures having to do with economic cooperation into reality.

Ago Tiimann opined that in addition to the existing ones, joint commissions should be set up to deal with specific cooperation issues. Tiimann added that those commissions should have close links with the governments.

Bank President Leaves for IMF Meeting in U.S.

OW1409182392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1723 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Bank of Estonia reports that on Monday [14 September] President of the Bank Siim Kallas left for Washington to attend an annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund opening September 20.

On the eve of the meeting the Board of the IMF directors will be held to decide whether to grant a loan to Estonia. Kallas is expected to deliver a report on the fiscal and economic reforms in Estonia before the IMF Board.

Kallas will also take part in the September 19 meeting of the IMF Scandinavian-Baltic group's board.

Bank Official on Prices, Finnish Markka, Election

LD1109194992 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Interview with Estonian Bank President Siim Kallas by correspondent Urmas Loit; place, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Loit] The Estonian Bank wants to stop price increases. How will this be possible?

[Kallas] We have a very effective measure at our disposal for stopping price increases, to regulate currency circulation so that no kroon will be put into circulation without cover. We have been fairly rigid but evidently there are still issues that call for more attention. [passage omitted]

A lot of pressure is put on us to provide credits out of the Estonian Bank's reserves, for one or another reason. This means creating instant inflation. There are 3,500 tonnes of butter currently held precisely here, at Supreme Council warehouses. Our message is that it must be sold at any price. They have to sell it for whatever they can get for it. But for some reason all these producers' unions who are so angry with the Estonian Bank do not even want to discuss this. At the same time they put in claims: You see, 3,500 tonnes of butter and 3,000 tonnes of meat are in cold storage and that way 3 million [kroons] are frozen [word indistinct], and the natural conclusion flows that somebody should be providing them with credits. No bank will provide credit for this, and could not even do so. It must be sold at a lower price. [passage omitted]

[Loit] An agreement on the settlement of accounts has been initialled with Lithuania; tomorrow it will be signed. What will it mean to Estonian currency circulation?

[Kallas] Accounts between us will be settled in convertible currency. This will bring some sense into the relations of those enterprises and banks who have partners in Lithuania. We have concluded a similar agreement with Latvia, and this for example, is very important from the point of view of Estonian Energy [firm that supplies Latvia with Estonian electricity].

[Loit] How has the activity of the Estonian Bank and Estonian currency circulation been affected by the devaluation of the Finnish markka?

[Kallas] In a narrow sense, the Estonian Bank did not have any markka reserves, and in that sense we have suffered no loss. The Estonian kroon became stronger against the markka. Generally, however, this affects Estonian-Finnish economic relations in a way that is not positive for Estonia because Finnish goods have become more competetive; it is possible to reduce their prices, and that means that Finnish goods might be purchased more, instead of Estonian goods. Of course, there are enterprises and firms that had a fair amount of Finnish deposits. Well, that is their problem, but a number of financial experts in Finland transferred their money here, into Estonian banks, quite some time ago because they guessed this might happen.

[Loit] In the course of the current election campaign the candidate deputies have given out many promises. One of them, for example, is that the pensioners' savings which were eaten up by the inflation will be compensated for. Will they—the candidate deputies—be able to stand by their promises?

[Kallas] Under no circumstances. Under no circumstances. This is a completely absurd demand. One question is, where will the money come from? The other is, who will be compensated? [passage omitted]

Supreme Council Concludes Last Session

OW1409181692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1723 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The 82nd session of the Estonian Supreme Council, the last in its record, took just 20 minutes Monday [14 September]. New parliamentary elections are scheduled for September 20.

Chairman of parliament Arnold Ruutel and speaker Ulo Nugis made brief reports. Vice-President of the Bank of Estonia Enn Teimann thanked the deputies for their contribution to preparation and implementation of the monetary reform and handed each a memorable coin.

Defense League Leader Cited on Tasks, Problems

LD1509134192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] The ETA agency reports that Defense League [Kaitseliit] leaders gave a news conference in Tallinn today. According to Defense League commander Manivald Kasepold, up to 6,000 people now belong to the League. The weapons and ammunition obtained through the defense forces' General Staff are inadequate, but League members cannot buy weapons for themselves because of high prices.

Speaking of relations with the Ministry of Defense, Kasepold noted that the ministry's tasks mainly consist of providing material supplies. Being part of the defense forces, all operations and exercises are coordinated with the [defense forces'] General Staff. According to the Defense League commander there are plans to strengthen discipline, and at the same time to get rid of those who joined the League only out of personal motives.

Juri Kadak, head of the operations department, added that those who breach the rules for carrying and storing weapons are expelled from the Defense League. According to Kadak's assurances, the League cooperates with the police and with the home defense force [Kodukaitse]. In Tallinn they could also fight against crime and the mafia, but they do not have the city council's authorization for this, Juri Kadak added.

Latvia

Dispute Over Opening Russian Embassy in Riga

PM1509131992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Reports by Irina Litvinova and Gennadiy Charodeyev under general heading: "Delay Over Question of Opening Russian Embassy in Riga Could Lead to Unpredictable Consequences"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Today ideal conditions have been created in the Latvian capital for the leading Western countries for the functioning of embassies and diplomatic missions. However, despite the authorities' promises, Russia has still not had returned its legal property in Riga where the Soviet Embassy was located before 1940.

In central Riga there is a building which in 1921, local traders—the Minskers—sold to the RSFSR. Ekab Khanetskiy, the republic's representative in Latvia, drew up a contract then for the purchase and sale to the sum of 6.3 million rubles. Since then the Russian diplomatic mission has been in this building....

Under present Latvian laws those states that bought buildings for their embassies prior to 1940 can regain the rights to them. So far Germany, France, Britain, and Poland have taken advantage of these rights. The Ministry of Culture is housed in the building belonging to Russia. The ministry's boss, Raimonds Pauls, local newspapers report, understands that the building will have to be returned if the Supreme Council and government adopt a relevant directive. A promise to vacate the Russian Embassy building was given at an August meeting in Moscow by Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans. A date was given—1 October. According to Aleksandr Rannikh, Russian ambassador to Latvia, whose opinion has been cited repeatedly in Latvian newspapers, this will make it possible for the embassy to begin to administrate property in the republic. Incidentally, the Russian ambassador and his staffers are currently living and working in a Riga hotel.

The 3 September session of the Latvian Supreme Council Presidium adopted a decree recommending that

the house of the former Russian diplomatic mission in Riga should not be handed over to Russia to house its embassy. Foreign Minister J. Jurkans reminded them during the session of the promise he had given to return the house by 1 October. Nonetheless, radically minded members of the Presidium insisted on having their way, linking their viewpoint with the fact that for the Latvian people the building has associations with the unpleasant memories of 1940. The presidium's decision contradicts the legislative act adopted a year ago by the Latvian Supreme Council on the return of buildings belonging to them to the diplomatic missions.

During the Presidium session J. Jurkans was critical of the decision which had been made, saying that "it will be a political trump card in the hands of those who want to aggravate relations between Latvia and Russia." In an interview with the newspaper DIENA he noted that the decision could also have an adverse effect on the fate of the building housing the Latvian Embassy in Moscow since Latvia does not have a single document confirming the republic's right to own the house. "Latvia could thus lose the embassy building in Moscow," DIENA notes.

In connection with the discussion over the return of the Russian Embassy building, newspapers in Riga have cited talk about the Latvian Embassy complex in Moscow. There are no documents confirming Latvia's property rights to the building at No. 3 Chaplygin Street. [Litvinova report ends]

A high-ranking representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry has stated in a newspaper interview that this sharp turn in the Latvian side's position regarding the return to our country of its legal property in Riga is causing confusion in Moscow. There has been no change in the Russian position, the diplomat stressed. We still insist that the plot of land and building of the Russian Embassy should be returned to us within the promised deadline. Their cost, according to incomplete information, is mounting into the millions of dollars.

The Russian diplomats' task is to begin full-scale activity in Latvia as soon as possible. Latvia should understand this point. Right now representatives of the Russian Army, not the diplomats, are defending the rights of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic states; that is very dangerous for the already complex domestic political situation in Latvia.

The delay over the question of the return of our property, the Foreign Ministry believes, could encourage the Russian side to return in earnest to the question of the legal status of the Latvian Embassy in Moscow. Apparently neither the Moscow city hall, other institutions, nor Latvia itself has any documents confirming Latvia's right of ownership of the plot of land and building of the embassy in Moscow. Moreover, in 1991 the permanent mission of the Council of Ministers of the former Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic was unilaterally declared the Latvian Embassy. Serious questions like this, the Russian diplomat said in conclusion, are not resolved in that fashion. Long international talks have usually been held with other countries on a similar topic, and relevant agreements are concluded.

Ministry Welcomes Russian-Lithuanian Agreement

LD1109163392 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0430 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Statement by the Latvian Foreign Ministry issued in Riga; date not given]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Latvia regards as a positive step the agreement reached in Moscow between the Lithuanian leaders and the Russian Federation on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania by 31 August 1993. In connection with this step we clearly perceive the effectiveness of the political declaration at the Helsinki talks on the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic states. We also perceive the effectiveness of the goodwill of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin in eliminating obstacles to the normalization of relations with the Baltic republics. As the next phase in this process we await the signing of a political treaty with Lithuania, and we express the conviction that equally productive talks will be conducted between Russia and Latvia and Russia and Estonia.

* Jurkans Discusses Relations With Russia

92UN2048A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Sep 92 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report by Galina Kuchina and Yuriy Sizov especially for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "Serious Negotiations Ahead: Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans Believes That Democrats of Russia and Latvia Need Mutual Support"]

[Text] Janis Jurkans did not rule out the possibility of a meeting in September even of the heads of Latvia and Russia. In an interview with ITAR-TASS correspondents, he said that such a proposal had been received, but that the question of the withdrawal of Russian forces from Latvia needed to be decided first.

The minister says that with the Russian Army's withdrawal from the Baltic states must come a solution of not only political but also economic problems. According to him, many important bankers and businessmen are holding back from making sizable investments as yet; they are afraid of instability, which is contraindicated for the successful investment of capital. Recalling the negotiations with Andrey Kozyrev, foreign minister of the Russian Federation, of 6 August, Janis Jurkans observed that his visit to Moscow had been a success. He discerned an understanding by the leadership of Russia that the army question had to be solved. In his view, progress is possible only in dialogue, given a search for alternatives and compromise which is prudent and acceptable to both parties. Jurkans disagreed with the opinion of a number of politicians of Latvia who viewed Russia's proposals as an ultimatum and diktat. Account should

also be taken here, according to him, of the pressure which is being exerted in Russia on its president and chief of diplomacy, and we should see that which is positive which has been achieved. "We should be helping the Russian democrats, who helped us acquire independence last year," the minister said, "not shouting and writing in capital letters in newspaper headings: 'Ultimatum, Diktat.'" In turn, he emphasized, support is needed by people of a democratic frame of mind in Latvia also, including by its government. "If we are not helped, we will very soon be swept aside, and people talking tough, from a position of strength, will appear," the minister observed. According to his forecasts, serious negotiations are still to come. As far, however, as Mikhail Gorbachev's words to the effect that the army in the Baltic is a stabilizing factor are concerned, the position of the ex-president of the USSR reflects, in Jurkans' view, his ignorance of the true story of Latvia. According to the minister, Gorbachev was always disinformed and did not know the truth, and he is now simply seeking his place in politics.

Janis Jurkans met the correspondents immediately upon his return from his tour of Latgale. In response to the journalists' words to the effect that travel around internal regions of their own countries is not, generally, characteristic of foreign ministers, Jurkans explained that only a diplomat who is conversant with the mood in society can worthily represent his state in the international arena. The success of Latvia's foreign policy is dependent on its domestic policy, which, the minister is convinced, depends on the extent of civic harmony in the republic. "Without it, we will achieve nothing and lose all that we have," Jurkans said. Latgale put him in a good frame of mind and lent him confidence in his actions for he found many sympathizers there. The idea that with Latvia's return to Europe, account needs to be taken of the prevailing trends there, was received with understanding in Latgale also. The minister is sure that state programs for the integration of non-Latvians in society and the repatriation of those wishing to leave Latvia are needed for the creation of a climate of civil equilibrium, for which it is necessary to establish a ministry of nationalities.

References to his opponents were frequent in the course of the interview. Thus the minister recalled the rebukes for his words "the West would not understand us." Those who say: What business of ours is the West, should not be going around the world with hand held out, asking for assistance. "In so doing I have to take account of the opinion of the people to whom I turn for support," Janis Jurkans said. He also cited the charges of betrayal of the republic's interests which are being heard against him. "It could be that I also would like to live in a Latvian Latvia," he said, "but it has been destroyed for 50 years and cannot be put back together in a year or two, this is a lengthy process, which we need to work on." He emphasized here that he was not talking about the assimilation of non-Latvians but about their integration and about the possibility of the Russian who was born here serving, should he so wish, in the Latvian Army and being a patriot of this country. The minister denied the existence in Latvia of a problem of national minorities—both in the past and in the present. There is, in his view, wariness, apprehension, and some uneasiness since legislation in the republic has not been put into order.

He also expressed his position on the citizenship problem. From his viewpoint, Latvian citizenship should be accorded all who are loyal to the republic, know its language, and had the five-year residency qualification by the time of the proclamation of the Declaration of Independence (4 May 1990). He considers the unity of the Latvian people a guarantee of its independence and an essential prerequisite of success in foreign policy. Among the other conditions so necessary for this, he cited the importance of society's support for parliament and the government and also the degree of support for the republic on the part of the democratic forces of Russia and other countries of the CIS and the international community.

Popular Front Declares Distrust of Jurkans

OW1409172692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1554 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Duma (representative assembly) of the Popular Front of Latvia expressed mistrust of the Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Janis Jurkans.

A declaration released after a meeting of the Duma, where the development of affairs in Russian internal policies and foreign policies of the Latvian government and Supreme Soviet were evaluated, states that Foreign Minister Jurkan's "inconsistency" and his constant expression of his "subjective opinion" concerning the observance of human rights in the republic mar Latvia's international prestige.

The Duma of the Popular Front submitted a proposition to the Latvian government to work out new foreign policies concerning Russia based on the common position held by all the Baltic states with respect to the withdrawal of "occupation forces" from their territories.

The Duma of the Union of Latvian Riflemen at its meeting also decided to call on the Supreme Soviet of the republic to assist in relieving Jurkans of his post.

Gorbunovs: 1994 More Realistic Withdrawal Date

LD1509061592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] The speaker of the Latvian parliament, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, has said the new Latvia and the new democratic Russia will be able to agree on disputable economic and political problems. He told Moscow reporters that Latvia and other Baltic republics expect much from a possible meeting with President Yeltsin. Such a meeting is likely to take place but it must be preceded by

wide-scale preparatory work. Speaking about the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia, Anatolijs Gorbunovs said that 1994 as the year of their final withdrawal is more realistic than earlier proposals.

Parliament Chief on Reforms, Russian Relations

LD1209183892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1609 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—"New Latvia and New Russia will come to agreement. I am certain of this," Chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet Anatolijs Gorbunovs told ITAR-TASS. The interview was published on Saturday [12 September] by the newspaper TRUD.

The parliament speaker emphasised that reforms which are pursued in the republic against the background of hyperinflation are "a painful process", but a return to the past is impossible. "This would have been another economic and national tragedy within one century. We have managed to survive in conditions of deficit-free budget, a main condition for introducing our own currency. As a result the Latvian rouble, although an interim measure, is stable," Gorbunovs said.

He said that the main issue in Latvia today was not human rights but qualifications for acquiring citizenship. Nation-wide registration is currently under way in Latvia. On its completion, the parliament will have to take political decisions. As a compromise, the speaker said that citizenship could be awarded to those who have lived in the republic for ten years and could speak fluent Latvian.

Ministries Suffer From Currency Shortages

OW1509100292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0931 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the joint parliamentary budget committee Valentina Zeile has told BF [BALTFAX] that last week's decision of the Latvian cabinet to freeze till December 1 due to an acute budget deficit $2.930 million promised to the ministries of welfare, culture, communications and defence has seriously complicated their work on approved programs.

It is especially unpleasant, she said, that the welfare ministry is among the victims, because now it is unable to import the medicines which Latvian citizens badly need.

Many Opportunities Exist for Evading Taxes

OW1109180292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1619 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The income to the Latvian state budget has dropped to the critical level, the deficit amounting to nearly 3 bn [billion] rubles, the Latvian finance minister, Ilmars Silins, warned Thursday [10 September]. In his opinion, the extent of the national debt may lead to a "collapse of various government programs, including the minimum-wage-rise program for the employees of the budget-sponsored agencies".

In the words of the minister, most of the Latvian economically efficient enterprises are evading taxes which in fact can only be associated with the introduction by the Bank of Latvia of differentiated exchange rates of the CIS transferrable rubles. As a result, the enterprises are accumulating CIS rubles and have no Latvian rubles to pay to the state budget.

Mr. Silins believes that Latvia ought to expedite the development of an efficient taxation system, as long as the existing situation "provides many opportunities for evading taxes".

State Enterprises' Debt Reaches 3 Billion Rubles

OW1409100292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0944 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The overall debt of the Latvian state enterprises has reached 3 bn [billion] rubles, which, according to the government information service, may force the state to stop financing them and freeze the minimum wages in them.

In an attempt to solve the problem, the State Financial Inspectorate and the Ministry of Industry and Energy have decided to estimate the cost of goods stocked in the warehouses of major debtor enterprises, and then put them on sale by arrangement with the government, possibly even selling them at prices lower than their cost prices.

If such sales fail to bring revenues sufficient to pay the enterprises' debts, the same will be done to their stocks of raw materials, and then to their fixed assets. Only in case all these measures have no effect will some of the personnel be fired.

Language Tests for Government Employees Continue

OW1509103392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0932 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Latvian examination board, 400 government employees have already failed to pass the Latvian language test. The examination commissions of appropriate companies and organizations will decide whether to give them a second try.

So far only 500 of the 200,000 persons who are to stand the language test due to their social standing have passed it. Most of the examinations will be held in October and November.

By the end of the year examinations will be held for 25,000 employees in industry and power engineering, 20,000 in education, 15,000 in architecture and construction.

Government Plans To Sue Independent Weekly

OW1509103192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0931 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Latvia the Justice Ministry and the Procurator General have brought a lawsuit against the independent weekly "Pilsonis" (Citizen) charging it with provocative calls for the overthrow of the regime. The press secretary of the government Mintauts Ducmanis told BF [BALTFAX] that the Monday [14 September] edition of the paper was arrested. He said that legal action was prompted by last week's editorial calling to overthrow the present leadership by force. In keeping with the law of the press, the spokesman said, such calls can serve as grounds for the closure of a publication. He felt that the case might be brought to court as early as this week.

Lithuania

Prime Minister Presents Work Report to Seimas

LD1109202192

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 1205 GMT on 10 September begins an 80-minute live relay of Lithuanian Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala's report to the Lithuanian Seimas from the Seimas building in Vilnius.

After greeting the deputies and wishing them success in their work, Abisala says: "The government has been in office for a month and a half and during this time it has adhered to the policy of maintaining the reform strategy. In some cases there has only been a change of tactics." He goes on to state that he would like to speak about the situation as a whole, and not only about the economy, because government activity embraces more than just the economy.

Abisala says that there is a need for precise, reliable, and exhaustive information for the control of the state. There is very little such information in Lithuania, he declares. "Reliable information must reach the government to enable it to govern; relaible information must reach the public to enable society to understand the state of affairs and the political situation. This is indispensable—not only in economic affairs, but also in politics—to guarantee democracy."

He continues: "We have already spoken much but we have not yet done anything about what is called national security. When I say nothing, I mean there is nothing in legal terms, on paper. At the moment, the concept of national security has been presented to the government and we have begun to discuss it. We understand the concept of national security essentially as the entire life of the state, the life of the state and its citizens. Domestic economic and social policy, along with foreign policy, guarantee security by political and economic means; they guarantee the citizen's security both in physical and social, and in economic terms; they guarantee the security of the nation and the national groups."

Abisala says that at the moment, individuals do not feel safe in Lithuania because the law and order bodies fail to ensure the people's physical safety. "The Lithuanian Government is not yet able to present a detailed plan on what has to be done in this respect. It is quite evident that the Supreme Council must concentrate on this matter and decide to lay the legal foundations while adopting the criminal code and criminal process code during this session, as required by the current economic and political situation in Lithuania. We cannot wait any longer."

Abisala goes on to speak about the Lazdijai border crossing point and related problems. He says that the collection of customs duties— "about 40,000 to 45,000 rubles per day before and 270,000 to 280,000 rubles now" —indicates that the replacement of all the customs officers was the right decision. He declares that the free movement of people across the border should not be hindered and states that the government is discussing the free movement of people without customs control with Poland. "I think that we will finally coordinate these issues during my visit, which takes place at the invitation of the Polish prime minister on 28 September. There is no doubt that not only this issue, but also other pressing matters in our relations with our neighbor Poland will be discussed." In this connection, he adds, there has been "a somewhat changed attitude to Lithuania which could be beneficial not only to the relations of the two states and the two nations but could also, apart from other things, increase the national security of Lithuania."

Going on to discuss foreign policy priorities, Abisala says: "Foreign policy priorities as seen by us probably do not differ from those pursued by any other state. The first priority is to guarantee security through bilateral treaties with neighboring countries, especially influential neighbors—the countries with which Lithuania has common interests, as well as, of course, through participation in international organizations—particularly those which are security organizations, and economic organizations which indubitably enhance national security. The second foreign policy priority is to create conditions for economic subjects to conduct trade as freely and beneficially as is possible. I will talk later about our future customs policy and border regime policy. The third priority is the guarantee of human rights and the rights of national minorities and democracy, both in Lithuania and in the states where Lithuanian national minorities exist." Abisala adds that environmental protection is also a priority.

Abisala states that there is no doubt that the most negative impact on the security of Lithuania was made by the presence of Russian troops. He congratulates the

negotiating delegation on achieving such good results at the Moscow summit. He states: "When talking about politics it is customary to speak of Eastern and Western policies. One can indeed do this; however, I would like to explain here that to my mind the main criterion is not the geographical one; it is not even a question of political systems past or present. The main point is that on the one side, we are starting to set up legal, agreed, and practical relations almost from zero. The process of putting legal relations in order on the Western side, concluding treaties, is proceeding somewhat ahead of practical relations—at least it is probably in parallel, or falling behind very insignificantly. Therefore this process is not very difficult. In the East practical relations are in existence. Whether these are bad or good is another matter: the point is that they do exist and we have to change them while setting up new legal grounds and relations. That is why diplomacy in the East is very complex; that is why it has been prostrated for such a long time; that is why it is difficult to reach common decisions; and that is why we have not yet got an agreement on settling of accounts or agreements on banking and trade." Abisala discusses the forthcoming meeting of the prime ministers of Lithuania and Russia on 18 September, where all these issues will have to be solved.

Speaking of the main priorities in economic relations with Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union, Abisala states that these will be "to conclude agreements on the state guarantees for suficiently free trade and work as much as is possible on a practical level. I am not sure if Russia is also inclined to do the same; however, there are some signs that allow us to think positively. I have no guarantees that after the agreements have been concluded they will be carried out, yet it looks as if this path is the easiest one both for state officials and for commercial subjects."

Abisala says it is important that Lithuania has investments in Russia and Kaliningrad oblast because "this allows us, after all, to maintain the sources of raw materials and the market. The market in the East will continue to be of considerable importance to us for a long time to come yet." Abisala asserts that much is being done to establish good relations with Ukraine and the republics in the Caucasus, although, he points out, attempts to do this have not always been fruitful.

Abisala states that "the policy of the Lithuanian Government, both with regard to domestic economic affairs and with regard to maintaining relations with foreign countries, is directed first of all at ensuring that Lithuanian businessmen, whether private or from the state sector, have more possibilities to trade with the West. It would be rather difficult to specify priorities in our relations with the West, but I would like to stress two points here: first,the natural geographical link with the north of Europe and, second, the understanding that the cooperation which is of greatest equal value—the most mutual and beneficial—cannot be with large states, but with those states that are of equal size with or not much larger than Lithuania. I do not, by any means, reject the idea of cooperating with the big countries—the United States, France, Britain, and Germany—but there is a certain nuance to this cooperation; meanwhile, we have rather tended to forget about cooperation with the Nordic states—Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, and others—but it is indispensable."

Abisala goes on to speak about relations with Finland and other Western countries and the laws which had to be adopted for the implementation of the agreements with the Western countries.

Turning to the current state of the economy, Abisala states: "Manufacturing output this year comprises only about 60 percent of the 1989 output. I think that everyone is aware of the reasons for this, therefore I will not analyze them." He adds that in 1989 a large quantity of goods that no one wanted were produced, therefore in real terms the decline in production is smaller than the above figure suggests. He goes on to say: "I must draw your attention to the fact that this year, and perhaps next year also, the amount of investment will have fallen to a minimum level. Meanwhile prices have increased by 21 times, and wages have increased by about 19 times in comparison with December 1990. Therefore, the difference between the increase in prices and the increase in wages is significantly smaller than between what was somehow manufactured at the end of 1990 and now. In other words, although we are manufacturing and selling significantly less, our earnings are almost the same. The change in the taxation policy has had some influence here."

Abisala goes on to assert that the main task for the government is to reduce inflation "at all costs." He adds that the economic memorandum made public by the government was designed for this purpose. He explains: "We will earn our living under different conditions from those that have prevailed until now. These new conditions may be illustrated thus: first, the price for power engineering resources has increased almost by 3,000 times in comparison with former years. Prices have increased inside Lithuania by 21 times and the price for power engineering resources by 3,000 times. At the same time the supply of power engineering resources is not guaranteed, which also affects manufacturing. The fact that Russia, having increased the purchase price of oil and gas to Lithuania, did not increase the price at the same rate for domestic consumption is of great importance. Russia's ability to pay is falling. The very high price of raw materials for the manufacture of our goods has made our products hard to sell in the zone of the Russian ruble market.

"I am not sure if this would not be seen as blasphemy if I say that there are some positive features in this as well. It exerts a physical pressure to look for new technologies, to look for new quality, and to look for new markets where these products can be sold. The difference in the cost of labor has so far been of help to us. However, I am sure that this is not going to last for long and that the

manufacturers have already realized that to carry on hoping for cheap raw materials and an easy market in the East is ludicrous. One must realize, if one has not yet done so, that soon, if not right now, we will start living under the same conditions as Switzerland or Denmark, except that we are not capable of working in the same way."

Speaking about industry, Abisala says that Russia's failure to pay for goods supplied and price increases have produced a relative reduction in capital circulation. This has greatly impeded banking operations and caused other difficulties in Lithuanian industries, he states. He continues: "If today we have about 9,000 registered unemployed, the real number is no doubt significantly higher. It is expected that this number could increase, according to various forecasts, from 40,000 to 200,000 by the end of the year."

Abisala discusses prices that are still controlled by the government and the branches of industry and services that were subsidized by the government.

On trade, he says: "Our exports during the last six months were worth something over 38 billion rubles and we imported goods to the value of 30 billion rubles." He adds that most exports went to the East, indicating that at least there is a balance of commodity turnover with the Eastern states. He declares: "This is what some people here and in Russia describe as the debt of the state of Lithuania to Russia. According to the bank accounts the contrary is in fact true—it is Russia that has failed to pay its debts, and failing to pay its debts Russia is buying more in Lithuania than Lithuania is buying in Russia. Having commodity circulation in mind we are not, by any means, in debt to Russia for anything." On the financial situation, Abisala says that the payments to the budget at the moment are carried out at a higher rate. "During the last eight-month period, payments to the budget comprised 42.4 billion rubles," he states, adding that the budget revenue will exceed the planned level by the end of the year. He adds: "There is no doubt that we did not reach the planned budget objectives so successfully as a result of manufacturing growth and increase revenue through taxation. It was the result of the price rise. There is no doubt that there is no growth in real state revenue.

"On the other hand, with the increasing prices for power engineering resources it will become impossible to maintain, in percentage terms, the taxes on oil, petrol, and other power engineering resources that have existed until now. We will be compelled to reduce taxes; meanwhile, if social subsidies are kept at the present level, expenditure will increase dramatically.

"We think that this year Lithuania has lost about 1.5 million tonnes of grain, worth 200 million rubles. About 20 percent of spring crops, 9 percent of potatoes, 8 percent of sugar beet, and 23 percent of flax have failed completely. I am not talking about the yields, I am talking about the area planted with these crops."

Abisala then reviews expected harvest yields this year and the state purchase of grain for food and fodder. He states: "At present about 200,000 tonnes of grain have been purchased; last year 550,000 tonnes of grain were purchased with great difficulty. We have 207,000 tonnes of food grain. We need 600,000 tonnes per year. Attempts were made to seek grain in Kazakhstan. No attempts were made in other places because there are no possibilities in other places. At the moment it is not clar whether we will get grain from Kazakhstan; we can talk about 100,000 tonnes at best. The rest we will have to purchase in the West from the aid fund. In any case, by consuming sparingly we will not be short of bread. We will be short of fodder, however.

"We think that the agricultural sector is capable of supporting 1.7 million head of cattle, 1.2 million pigs, and about 12 million poultry. All this should be enough to feed ourselves here in Lithuania and there should be some left over for export."

On privatization in agriculture, Abisala says: "By the end of the fall, the government expects there to be 23,000 private farms. The average farm is approximately 10 hectares in size." The small size of farms, Abisala says, is also beneficial under the existing circumstances in Lithuania.

The prime minister then turns to social security problems, speaking more specifically about the rise in wages, pensions, and overall increase in prices. He says: "Wages in various branches of the economy differ very much. According to the recommendations of all the experts, if wages in different branches of the economy differ by more than a factor of two, then this is no longer helping production, but harming it."

Abisala states that the maximum of social guarantees foreseen by the relevant laws had a totally different economic situation in mind from the one existing currently. He also discusses the adoption of a law on a wage and salary freeze, in the extremely difficult economic situation. On other measures proposed by the government, he says: "The subsidies will be suspended wherever this is possible." He adds that subsidies for heating and electricity will be diverted directly to the families hit hardest of all by inflation.

"Another measure is the policy of the state bank and other banks in restricting credits. It is important here that the Lithuanian Central Bank functions like a central bank. This has already been achieved in legal terms." He continues: "I would say that one of the key points in the economic memorandum is the introduction of the litas and the stabilization of the economy through the stabilization of the currency itself. We believe that if the steps indicated in the memorandum are taken then by the end of this year, let us say during the last two months of this year, the average rate of inflation should be 10 percent, and during the first quarter of next year the average monthly inflation should be 3 percent. This is a great

deal; it means that annual inflation is 40 percent. However, this figure is much lower than the present one, and, let us say frankly, the objectives are almost realistic."

Abisala states: "This government would not like to be confronted with the situation which currently exists in Poland when the government forces have to be directed to fight against strikes and not to economic reform." He calls on the Supreme Concil to appeal to all the trade unions and other public organizations to help the government while giving support to the present restricting policies. On privatization, Abisala gives a detailed account of this, indicating what still remains to be done in this sphere.

Landsbergis Says Troop Pullout Great Victory

LD1209165192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 10 Sep 92

[Text] The agreement on the Russian Army's withdrawal from Lithuania should be considered as a great victory of democratic forces of Lithuania and Russia, and a big step toward cooperation and normalizing the relations between the two countries, said Chairman of the Supreme Council Vytautas Landsbergis speaking at the parliament today [10 September].

The agreements signed in Moscow should be valued as a great achievement of Lithuania's international policy. Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis asked the MP's to avoid using the wrong interpretation of the agreement on the Army withdrawal in the election campaign and to consider state interests prior to (?group or) party interests.

The parliament leader expressed hope that the pullout would be friendly enough and said that Lithuania would provide every assistance for the smooth pullout.

The date of the final withdrawal is 21 August 1993, but (?the) division stationed in Vilnius is to be withdrawn already this year. The political agreement between the two countries has not been signed yet and certain positions are still to undergo some coordination as President Boris Yeltsin did not agree on some points in the already prepared and coordinated document. The next summit meeting is planned for 1 and 2 October.

Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis has also informed the MPs about (?an unofficial) meeting with Russia's State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis, during which problems related to former Lithuanian deportees and their families still living in Russia, settling accounts between the two countries, juridical assistance and some other questions were discussed. The chairman also reminded about the currently continued talks on economic relations for this and the coming year and has pointed out that Russia's problems always tell on Lithuania too. Thus political and diplomatic work requires that maintaining of trade and economic relations with Russia would not enlarge Lithuania's dependence on Russia's (?direct) problems.

Butkevicius Cited on Troop Withdrawal Timetable

OW1109204392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1852 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Home Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius told the newspaper "LIETUVOS RYTAS" that the full schedule of Russian troops' withdrawal from Lithuania will not be announced until a separate agreement with Russia. The minister noted that "implementation of the schedule started on September 8".

The minister said that by the end of November "not a single Russian soldier should stay in Vilnius". In an interview with BF [BALTFAX] the Commander of the 107th Motorized Infantry Division stationed in Lithuania Colonel Valeriy Frolov was reluctant to comment on reports about the start of the withdrawal. He only noted that "if corresponding agreements are signed, his division is prepared to leave the Lithuanian capital".

Butkevicius claims that already this year a Russian airborne regiment will be withdrawn from Marijampole. According to him, a regiment of the 3rd Coast Guard Division will also be withdrawn from Talsiai (Lithuania), as well as some smaller units.

Butkevicius said that remaining Russian border guards will leave Lithuania's Baltic coast within days.

[In a related report carried in the same facsimile transmission at 1852 GMT on 11 September, BALTFAX says the newspaper EKHO LITVY has published regulations governing the conduct of Russian military personnel in Lithuania. The regulations were agreed upon during a recent meeting between President Vytautas Landsbergis and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The regulations "prohibit Russian troops from using training grounds and forest districts for their purposes, from patrolling territory within the boundaries of military areas, and from conducting reconnaissance activities."]

Court Confirms Deputy Prunskiene's KGB Links

LD1409133892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1254 GMT 14 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, 14 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—In the absence of the defendant and her lawyers, the Lithuanian Supreme Court today confirmed "the juridical fact of the deliberate cooperation" of the republic's ex-premier, Kazimiera Prunskiene, with the security bodies.

The parliamentary commission for the investigation into the actitivities of the KGB in Lithuania lodged a suit with the Supreme Court for this fact to be recognized at the end of May. Prunskiene, who occupied the post of chairman of the Lithuanian Council of Ministers between March 1990 and January 1991, denied her involvement with the secret services from the very

beginning of the investigation. She maintained that this entire process was political in nature and was aimed at discrediting her as a political figure and a scholar in the eyes of the world public and among her compatriots.

Last Friday [11 September], the 51-year-old Prunskiene applied to the court to postpone the trial until the end of September. The reason she gave for her request was that she is very busy as she has to participate from today as an organizer or participant in several international symposia and seminars being held both in Lithuania and abroad.

Although the application was backed by a representative of the General Procuracy, the court did not agree with the ex-premier's arguments. After handing down the judgment, the Lithuanian Supreme Council has to endorse it and this means that her powers as a deputy in parliament will be suspended.

Prunskiene is the fourth deputy of the present composition of the Lithuanian Supreme Council charged with deliberate cooperation with the special services.

Klaipeda Russians Call For Distribution of Arms

LD1209224292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Proclamations issued by the Committee in Defense of the Russian-speaking Population of the city of Klaipeda were circulated today in that Lithuanian seaport. Their appeal to soldiers and officers says that they have fallen victim to the disgraceful policy of President Boris Yeltsin and his lackeys.

The Lithuanian parliamentary leader Vytautas Landsbergis is attacked in the proclamation for his alleged nationalistic policy.

A demand is made that weapons and ammunition in the arsenals of the city should be distributed among the Russian-speaking population of Klaipeda, that joint staff of the military and civilians should be set up because an attack must be launched instead of defensive policies. The proclamation issued by the Committee in Defense of the Russian-speaking Population of Klaipeda demands that an independent Soviet Republic of Klaipeda should be founded, and that tanks and armored personnel carriers should renew their patrol of the harbor and highway.

Colonel Igor Bolyanovskiy is appointed the commandant of the non-existent Soviet Republic of Klaipeda. The officer himself learned about the appointment from the proclamation. He called the proclamation a provocative act and defined the invitation to hand out weapons as a road to a new Karabakh, the Dniester region, or Georgia. In his statement made on Lithuanian TV, Col. Igor Bolyanovskiy said that the officers of the division in his command respect and will further respect laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

Chairman of the Klaipeda City Council, Vytautas Ciapas, called the appearance of the proclamation in the city elementary provocation which was given an impulse by the Lithuanian-Russian agreement on troop withdrawal. The incident in Klaipeda is now being investigated into by the city prosecutor's office.

Finance Ministry Prepares New Tax Code for 1993

OW1109130292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1014 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] No radical changes will be made this year in Lithuania's taxing system, Lithuania's Finance Minister Audrius Misevicius announced during a press conference on Thursday [10 September]. He said that new taxes will be part of the 1993 taxing system which will be introduced with the draft budget for 1993.

And yet, the first steps to liberalize the taxing system will be made this year, he said. For instance, the government is going to abolish the excise on imports.

The taxing system will be dovetailed with the current situation, said the Lithuanian finance minister. There are plans to introduce taxes on entrepreneurship, property and street trade. The system of control should also be improved, he said.

Procurator's Office Denies Persecution Charges

OW1409172492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1555 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Office of Public Prosecutor of Lithuania released a declaration on Monday [14 September] denying rumors of alleged intensified persecution of political opponents of the ruling government in the republic.

The document reads: "Once again reactionary forces of the former Soviet empire, under the guise of the Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, are striving to deceive the world community." In the beginning of September the Moscow organization "Committee of Political Prisoners", uniting, as was reported to BALTFAX at the Committee's representation, "several public figures, people working for newspapers, economists and deputies of local soviets" and headed by Yevgeniy Kogan, a former deputy of the USSR and one of the leaders of the deputy lobby group "Soyuz" (Union), released a declaration. The latter reported that "the well-known public figures" N. Gribanov and A. Skliar, as well as S. Reznik, a militiaman, were arrested in Vilnius for their political convictions.

The Office of Public Prosecutor of Lithuania reports that Gribanov, managing director of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party, and Reznik, an instructor also of the Central Committee were detained

for committing "state crimes"—obstructing the release of several republican newspapers. The Procurator's Office points out that Skliar, one of the leaders of the Vilnius OMON [special purpose militia detachment], is accused of stealing arms and ammunition from the OMON arsenal during the bloody events in January in the Lithuanian capital.

The declaration states that "the Procurator's Office, in investigating these cases, is guided by requirements of the law and analyses of collected evidence, and does not make any judgement of the political convictions of the detained persons."

Parties Hold Pre-Election Conferences in Vilnius

OW1209141792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1355 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sajudis and the Democratic Labor Party of Lithuania have held pre-election conferences in Vilnius today. The two organizations are led by Lithuania's most popular politicians, Vytautas Landsbergis and Algirdas Brazauskas.

Pre-election conferences are also being held by the Centras movement, the Society of Eastern Lithuania (a public political movement comprising members of 10 communities), and the Lithuanian National Social Democratic Movement formed after the Social Democratic Party of Lithuania split up early this year.

All these organizations will apparently approve at their conferences their election programs and candidates' lists for the Seimas election scheduled for October 25.

Sajudis Coalition Discusses Upcoming Elections

LD1509102192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0500 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Yesterday the Sajudis coalition held a conference to discuss the candidates to the Lithuanian Seimas. The coalition is made up of the Lithuanian Sajudis, the Lithuanian Citizens' Charter, the Union of Political Prisoners, the Sajudis of the Lithuanian Farmers and the Lithuanian Greens Party.

The conference was opened by Juozas Tumelis, chairman of the Sajudis Council.

Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania and honorary chairman of the Lithuanian Sajudis, spoke at the conference about preparations for the oncoming elections. The importance of the activeness of the people of Lithuania in the scheduled elections was especially stressed by Vytautas Landsbergis.

The first part of the Sajudis coalition conference took place yesterday. The second part will be held on 19 September at the Vilnius Sports Palace. All democratic organizations of Lithuania will participate.

Landsbergis To Run as Sajudis Candidate

OW1409095992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0943 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis, said he would stand for President of Lithuania in an election which, he thought, would be held this winter.

Speaking on the Lithuanian TV last evening, he said that, in the October 25 election to the Seimas (new parliament), he would stand as a Sajudis candidate.

The Christian Democratic Party, he continued, had asked him to be its number-one candidate but he refused. "I can't give up the sails on which the word 'Sajudis' has been inscribed for four years," he said.

Landsbergis expressed the hope that there would be combined lists of candidates from Sajudis and those from political parties and organizations close to it. According to him, this will be the main issue discussed at a conference of the Sajudis coalition next Saturday [19 September].

Former Premier on Sajudis' Loss of Support

OW1309142092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1348 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Why did some people lose trust in "Sajudis?" This question was raised in the "LIETUVOS RITAS" newspaper by Zigmas Vaisvila, former Lithuanian deputy prime minister and one of those who founded "Sajudis". According to him, one of the reasons for this is the fact that most abuses of the law have been committed by people backed by Sajudis: From collective farm leaders to prime minister.

In his article Z. Vaisvila says he hopes that at its election conference Sajudis will present its election program after all. However what the average voter will think when he sees in the lists of candidates for parliamentary elections people who abused law when they were in power? Sajudis is running the risk of compromising itself completely.

Communist Party Successor Holds Second Congress

LD1209224892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1850 GMT 12 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius September 12 TASS—"Labour, accord and conscientiousness" is the title of the election programme of the Democratic Party of Labour of Lithuania (DPLL), which was endorsed by its second congress in Vilnius on Saturday [12 September].

The 20,000-strong DPLL, which is Lithuania's largest political party, is a successor to the Communist Party of Lithuania which broke away from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on December 20, 1989, and now stands on social-democratic positions.

The congress was totally devoted to preparations for elections to the Lithuanian Seimas (parliament) scheduled to take place on October 25. Taking part in the elections will be 29 organisations and movements and 11 political parties. The congress was addressed by its Chairman Algirdas Brazauskas who criticised the policy of the government for bringing the economy of Lithuania to the brink of catastrophe and favoured improved relations with East, especially Russia.

The congress endorsed the election programme and candidates for parliament deputies. The party will contest parliament seats in all election districts.

Workers Union Meets on Organizational Issues

LD1509104392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0500 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The fifth congress of the Lithuanian Workers' Union took place at the Trade Union Palace in Vilnius yesterday. The organizational issues of the union and the confirmation of the program, the rules, the structure, and the emblems of the Lithuanian Workers' Union were on the agenda of the congress.

As a nonpolitical organization, the Lithuanian Workers' Union will not participate in the coming elections. The political forces which support the workers' interests in real terms will be given support by the Union. [passage omitted]

Representatives from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the World Confederation of Labor, and the Polish Free Trade Union Solidarity took part in the conference.

Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala extended his greetings to the participants in the congress.

Kazimieras Uoka, national controller and honorary chairman of the Workers' Union, also spoke at the congress.